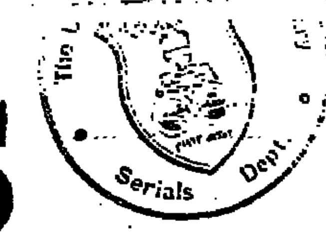


THE TIMES

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Mubarak will go to Israel

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said in Cairo that he would visit Israel for the first time in February after a trip to the United States. In Beirut, the five-week ceasefire began to break down after gun battles through the night between militias loyal to Iran and those who support Iraq. Page 4

£100,000 gift for transplants

A gift of £100,000 by Mr John James, the millionaire philanthropist, will enable Westminster Hospital to save the lives of 15 children needing bone marrow transplants next year. The gift will bring the number of operations up to 40. Page 2

Reagan steps up security

President Reagan has ordered Secret Service protection for his three top White House aides as intelligence and FBI agents searched the country for a five-man Libyan assassination squad which is reported to have entered the United States Page 4

Haig pledge on Central America

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has pledged to prevent any Central American country from becoming a platform for terror and war and offered a programme of economic assistance Page 4

Housebuilding improves

Private sector housing starts are likely to exceed the forecasts made half way through this year despite the recession and high interest rates. Housebuilders now forecast about 118,000 starts by the end of the year compared with 98,000 last year, the worst figure since 1953 Page 17

EEC may block aid to Turkey

The European Commission has decided to recommend blocking an EEC aid package to Turkey in protest at the imprisonment of Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Prime Minister Page 4

Homes challenge to Heseltine

Norwich City Council is to ask the High Court to stop the Department of the Environment taking over its housing stock to speed sales to tenants. It is challenging the constitutional validity of the move Page 2

Arts welcome grants rise

The Arts Council, museums and galleries greeted the government announcement of an 8 per cent increase in grants for the arts with relief. As many had expected the grants to be cut Page 3

45 die in panic inside tower

Forty-five people died during a panic when power failed inside the Qutab Minar tower, one of India's great monuments on the outskirts of Delhi. Many of the dead and injured were school children Page 5

Footmen jailed

Two royal footmen who stole gelignite and mining equipment to follow their hobby of caving and stored some of their booty at Buckingham Palace were sent to prison at Gloucester Crown Court Page 3

Solidarity threat

Solidarity has threatened the Polish Government with a national strike if a state of emergency is declared Page 5

Willis in form

England's Bob Willis found his best form when he took four wickets for 35 runs against India's South Zone at Hyderabad. The home side reached 247 for nine at the close Page 22

Sakharov and wife taken to hospital by force

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Dec 4

The Soviet authorities have forcibly removed Dr Andrei Sakharov, the exiled dissident physicist, and his wife, Yelena, to hospital and are giving them medical assistance a Soviet newspaper announced today. The couple had been on hunger strike for 13 days in an attempt to persuade the authorities to grant an exit visa to Miss Liza Alexeyeva, the fiancée of Dr Sakharov's stepson.

The report suggests that the Sakharovs, whose action has evoked protests and appeals to Moscow by statesmen in Europe and America, will be force fed. The paper said they were being treated "to prevent any complications in the state of their health."

Dr Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, was exiled to Gorkiy, 250 miles east of Moscow, in January 1980. He and his wife Yelena, who uses the surname Bonner, began their strike on November 22 and took only mineral water. In a telegram to Miss Alexeyeva in Moscow on Wednesday they said they were holding out and in good spirits but friends of the family have expressed fears for the life of Dr Sakharov, who is 60 and suffers from a heart condition.

Izvestia today described the hunger strike as a trick and suggested the Russians will not allow Miss Alexeyeva, who is 26, to join Mr Alexei Semyonov, Yelena Bonner's son by a former marriage in the United States because her disabled parents have lodged an official objection. Under Soviet law an emigrant has to have the written consent of close relatives before being granted an exit visa.

Miss Alexeyeva this evening said her parents, whom she visited recently, had not sought a court order preventing the Sakharovs seeing her, as *Izvestia* also reported.

The paper said Miss Alexeyeva's father had sent a letter to the Soviet Government saying: "Our daughter is being intensively brainwashed in an anti-Soviet spirit by Sakharov, Bonner and company with the aim of forcing her to leave the Soviet Union . . . what meanness! . . . what sacrilege! . . . I request and implore you to take measures to protect my family."

Miss Alexeyeva was married by proxy to Mr Semyonov, a student at Brandeis University, in June but the Russians have not recognized the marriage.

The paper called Dr Sakharov's actions a "fresh provocation calculated to attract again the attention of the West to Sakharov's anti-Soviet views and play up forces which are designed to undermine detente and aggravate international tension."

The charge reflects Soviet nervousness that the affair could hold up the vital arms negotiations that opened this week in Geneva. The Russians clearly realize that if Dr Sakharov dies, public opinion in the United States would force the Reagan administration, which has linked arms talks to Soviet behaviour, to take a tough stand.

On the other hand the Soviet leaders cannot countenance concessions made under public pressure from the West, especially in emigration cases as they believe this would only encourage the emigration movement.

Miss Alexeyeva, who lives in the Sakharovs' Moscow flat, said earlier today she was worried that she had not had any answer to her reply-paid daily telegrams for two days. Both she and Mr Semyonov have said they are opposed to the hunger strike.

On learning this evening from Western correspondents of Dr Sakharov's removal, she said she was sure he was being force fed in hospital. "I am

International protests over the case have clearly worried the Russians. Yesterday the Social Democratic group in the European Parliament appealed to Moscow to allow Miss Alexeyeva to leave, and Mr Ola Ullsten, the Swedish Foreign Minister, told the Soviet Ambassador to Stockholm that it was a crime against human rights not to allow her to join her fiance.

On Wednesday an American delegate to the United Nations told the General Assembly's social, humanitarian and cultural committee that Dr Sakharov was a towering moral and intellectual figure and said he was protesting against "an act of petty and intolerable cruelty by the Soviet authorities".

☐ *Washington*: A State Department spokesman said the United States had made strenuous efforts on behalf of the Sakharovs and described their admission to hospital as "extremely regrettable" (Reuter reports).

Moscow had apparently spurned an easy and humanitarian means of ending the couple's hunger strike by allowing their daughter-in-law to emigrate to the United States to join her husband. "Their intransigence has led to the hospitalization of one of the world's greatest scientists and fighters for human rights," he said.



Dr Sakharov and his wife, whose hunger strike has brought protests to Moscow by European and American statesmen.

Protests at close vote to end BL strike

From Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent
Birmingham

A chaotic mass meeting of workers on strike at BL's Longbridge car plant yesterday voted by a majority of 46 to end the four weeks' long dispute over tea breaks and return to work on Monday.

But groups of workers claimed later that the meeting had been so bitterly divided that another would probably take place on Monday to reverse the decision.

Voting was so close that it had proved impossible to decide the result by a show of hands and two avenues of shop stewards had to be formed so that workers could be counted as they filed through, like a House of Commons division is counted.

The result was greeted with a roar of protests. Track workers in particular shouted that the vote had been swung by women upholsterers who had been on strike for only three days.

"It was a near riot with people screaming abuse at each other and threatening God knows what," said one elderly worker.

The peace formula agreed after all-night negotiations contained major concessions by both sides. Management went halfway to meet the union's demand that it should drop plans to reduce daily relaxation time from 52 to 40 minutes for assembly track workers. It will now be 46 minutes.

In return the unions will accept some increased track speeds, readjustment of manning, an increase in the working week for night shift workers from 38 to 39 hours and the full 12 minutes reduction in break time for the 7,000 employees not directly associated with the assembly tracks.

It was the extra hour for night shift workers which caused the most discord. For nearly two hours the building housing the meeting echoed with shouts as speakers were heckled and booed.

Bill Warhurst



Mrs Margaret Thatcher with a damp clown at the unveiling of a drinking fountain in Hyde Park to commemorate the 1979 Great Children's Party. Later, saying: "Don't stand there and get cold", she led children in physical jerks.

Bermondsey man speaks out

'I have been tried and executed'

By Anthony Bevins and Richard Ford

Mr Michael Foot is expected to insist on the eventual disbandment of Bermondsey's left-wing Labour party if they refuse to replace their parliamentary candidate, Mr Peter Tatchell.

It was emphasized by many Labour MPs last night that whatever the merits of the case, the Labour leader could *hardly retreat from his public* repudiation of Mr Tatchell in the Commons on Thursday.

But Mr Tatchell, aged 29, said yesterday: "I have been tried and executed without the opportunity of stating my case. These MPs, they have never met me, they do not know my policies and they have given me no opportunity to speak in my own defence."

He denied that the Bermondsey party had been infiltrated by the far left, and said that by extra-parliamentary activity—the phrase which prompted the Commons repudiation—he meant no more than the mass lobbying of Parliament.

If Mr Foot's confrontation with Bermondsey goes ahead it could take months, beginning with a meeting of the Labour executive's organization committee on Monday, and passing through to the full executive at the end of this month, before negotiations start with the local party executive.

But the Labour right is concerned that Mr Foot plans to turn Mr Tatchell into a whipping boy while ducking the demand for a complete purge of all Trotskyists from positions of influence in the party.

Frontier on both right and left

Mr Peter Shore, Shadow Chancellor, told a meeting at Swansea last night: "Of course, to those avowed Trotskyists and infiltrators, the turning over of stones, the exposure to the light of day, will be as unwelcome as sunlight to Dracula—and predictably, we shall hear plaintive cries of witchhunts and McCarthyism."

Mr Foot was committed to parliamentary democracy, to democratic socialism and tolerance in a broad-based Labour party. But the party *had a frontier on both the* right and the left. "That frontier must be guarded and manned", Mr Shore said.

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's deputy leader, is expected to tell a meeting in Leeds this afternoon that those responsible for the sectarian rifts of the past must be effectively dealt with. The entire Labour leadership is agreed that time is running out fast.

Mr Ron Hayward, general secretary, said in Warwickshire last night: "Time is not on our side, but we do have time to get it all together, if we start now."

Militant Tendency has already warned that there will be a hurricane of grass-roots protest if there is any move to attack its base in the party. But such a demand exists, and has been fired by Mr Foot.

Mr Merlyn Rees, another Shadow Cabinet member, said last night that in parts of London, where Labour representation was high but declining, "good local councillors are being rejected by Star Chamber court methods". Small groups were organizing hit-lists against elected Members of Parliament.

Mr Tatchell, asked about his reaction to Mr Foot's comment in the Commons that he would never be an endorsed Labour candidate, said he had not had a chance to read *Hansard* and would make no comment until he had seen the party leader at Monday's meeting. But he said: "I am surprised in the way in which the thing has developed".

A tall, self-assured Australian, he gave a press conference yesterday flanked by senior members of the Bermondsey Labour party. He was a radical democratic socialist who supported parliamentary democracy, he said. He would not be fighting the election on far or ultra-left policies but on the official policy of the Labour party.

He was not a member of, and did not support, the Militant Tendency. Neither did he belong to any other group or faction in the party.

Asked what he meant by extra-parliamentary action he said he was referring to any form of political activity which took place outside parliament, such as peaceful mass protests. "My support for a siege of parliament was really a restatement of the age-old form of political protest—the mass lobby of Parliament to demand housing, jobs and a better standard of living for the working-class people of this country."

The kind of extra-parliamentary activity he supported was the TUC's Day of Action and the People's March for Jobs. "My only wish is that all 250 Labour MPs had been marching shoulder to shoulder with the unemployed."

All the members of the Bermondsey party lived or worked locally. Their growth in numbers from 400 to more than 800 in 18 months was *because the party was taking* up local issues and fighting for local people.

Mr Tatchell supported equal rights and civil liberties for all minority groups, including women, gay people and ethnic minorities. He accused Mr James Wellbeloved, the SDP MP whose question in the Commons led to Mr Foot's intervention, of a "cheap political gimmick".

Livingstone support for Tatchell

The local party executive at Bermondsey fully supports Mr Tatchell. He was selected as candidate by most of the 70 members of the general management committee who attended the selection meeting in November. Mr Ted Bowman, acting chairman of the party, said: "He is going to be endorsed. There is no problem about it".

Mr Tatchell was also supported yesterday by Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC, who described him as an "excellent candidate".

One of Mr Benn's closest Commons colleagues, Mr Stuart Holland, MP Vauxhall, said yesterday that Mr Foot should concentrate on advocating Labour policy in the country, rather than attacking individual candidates of the party.

Nevertheless, Mr Foot is expected to carry his case against Mr Tatchell on Monday.

Foot and the left, page 2

Informer who led police to IRA camp named by republicans

From Our Correspondent, Belfast

The Provisional IRA defector believed to have given the Royal Ulster Constabulary information on which they have based arrests of Belfast republicans, and which led to the Irish police discovering an IRA training camp, was named by the republicans yesterday.

An Phoblacht, the weekly newspaper of Provisional Sinn Fein said he is Mr Christopher Black, aged 29, from the Ardoyne district of Belfast. Mr Black is already referred to as "supertout" among his former colleagues—"tout" is the Belfast synonym for the English criminal fraternity's "grass". He was released from prison about a year ago after serving a five-year term.

He rejoined the republican movement on release but on being arrested some weeks ago was blackmailed by the RUC into becoming an informer in return for immunity from prosecution, *An Phoblacht's* front page article alleged.

The existence of the informer was admitted by republican sources last weekend after a series of police and army raids in north and west Belfast in which more than 30 people were arrested. The raids focused particularly upon the Ardoyne. Yesterday the house Mr Black occupied there with his wife and four children was deserted.

An Phoblacht said that Mr Black toured the cells at the RUC's interrogation centre at Castlereagh with Special Branch detectives identifying suspects arrested in the raids.

It blamed him particularly for giving the information which led to the Irish police raiding a Provisional IRA training camp last weekend on Cruit, a two-mile-long island off Donegal.

The Irish police believe a terrorist squad in training fled only minutes before they arrived on the island.

The republicans believe that Mr Black is being held under police protection in the North of England and that his wife and children have been removed by the RUC to save them from possible reprisals.

☐ President Reagan has told the Irish Government that a lasting solution to the Northern Ireland problem "can only be found in a process of reconciliation between the two Irish political traditions and between Britain and Ireland" (our Dublin Correspondent writes).

The message came in a letter delivered to the Irish Government yesterday by Mr William Clark, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, the most senior official from the Reagan administration to visit Dublin.

Clore executors accused of cunning legal ploy

By Tony Samstag

A "cunningly planned and carefully arranged" legal strategy had been devised in an attempt to avoid paying millions of pounds in tax on the estate of the late Sir Charles Clore, Mr Justice Ewbank said in the High Court yesterday.

Sir Charles, the financier, died in 1979 leaving an estimated £60m in holdings in England and Monaco. The judge said the British portion of the estate was probably worth £30m to £40m; but "by a stroke of the pen" much of that had found its way to the tax-haven of Jersey.

The judge upheld the appointment of the Official Solicitor to administer the estate, passing over Mr Nathan Meyohas of France and Mr Joseph Kasierer of Israel, the executors named by Sir Charles in his will. His decision, he said, took account of the Inland Revenue's "lack of confidence" in the conduct of the executors to date.

The Revenue cited the proceeds from the sale of an estate in Hereford and Worcester, more than £20m, which had been paid to Stype Investments (Jersey), of which the executors were directors.

The money had since been blocked by the Royal Court of Jersey; but it was more than possible that it was lost as far as British tax purposes were concerned. The Revenue contended that the £20m should have remained in the rest of Britain, where it was subject to capital transfer tax of about £15m.

The exercise, in short, seemed "to have been cunningly planned and carefully arranged in accordance with the law" so that "at a stroke of the pen land in England became money in Jersey".

The Revenue had also expressed concern about Sir Charles's shareholdings, worth about £13m, to which there was no reference in documents supplied by the executors. Asked in affidavit as to the fate of those assets, the executors had replied that they were all sold by Sir Charles before his death.

Those moneys, too, had "found their way to Jersey", even though they would be taxable if Sir Charles, who lived in Monaco during the last two years of his life, were deemed to have been domiciled in Britain.

The Revenue had also criticized "the marked lack of urgency" shown in the executors' dealings.

A stay of action was granted for 14 days pending appeal.

Law Report, page 2

Ordination for British woman

From Michael Hamlyn
New York, Dec 4

The Episcopalian Bishop of Newark, New Jersey, who will tomorrow ordain a British woman, called on the Church of England to end discrimination against women in the Church.

The Right Rev John Spong, of the Anglican Church in America, will ordain Miss Elizabeth Canham, a theology teacher from Charlton, south-east London, in a ceremony at Trinity Cathedral, Newark, in which he will be assisted by Dr Mervyn Stockwood the former Bishop of Southwark. Dr Stockwood officiated when Miss Canham was made a deacon in 1978.

Dr Spong said today that he hoped her ordination "will call all members of the Anglican Church to end the discriminatory practices that still mark some parts of this worldwide communion". He urged the Church of England to move quickly to claim the talents of women called to the ministry, before they go abroad where their talents would be lost at home.

Miss Canham, aged 42, *intends working in the United* States for at least two years. She is at present a curate in a New Jersey parish.

"I'm basically a teacher", she said. "I hope to return to England eventually and combine the ministry with that of a teacher."

The Right Rev Ronald Bowlby, the present Bishop of Southwark, in a letter to Miss Canham says: "I hope it will not be long before you can be welcomed back to Southwark without restraint and conflict." Miss Canham has also received messages of support from both suffragan bishops of Southwark.

Jobless levels soaring in US and Germany

By Bailey Morris and Nicholas Cole

Unemployment is moving *sharply higher* in both the United States and West Germany.

The number of jobless Americans continued to climb last month to a peak of 8.4 per cent of the workforce. This represents the highest unemployment figure since the 1974-75 recession, the United States Labour Department reported.

"This is the price you have to pay for bringing down inflation", Mr Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary to President Reagan, said.

In West Germany, unemployment last month reached the highest November level for 29 years. The number of unemployed was 1.49 million, or 6.4 per cent of the workforce, the Federal Labour Office said.

In the United States there were more than nine million unemployed by the end of the month, including a record volume of unemployed young people for whom the jobless rate rose to 21.8 per cent. This was the highest since records began in the mid-1940s.

A growing number of plant lay-offs was blamed for the big increase in unemployment *among adult male blue-collar* workers, traditionally the last to feel the effects of severe recession. The jobless rate for unemployed male adults was close to a postwar high at 7.2 per cent.

The White House said yesterday the climb in unemployment from 8 per cent in October to 8.4 per cent last month was not surprising.

Mr Speakes predicted that the jobless rate would drop next year but private forecasts and some government forecasts expect it to reach 9 per cent by next month and continue rising in the new year to 9.5 per cent.

Mr Murray Weidenbaum, head of the Council of Economic Advisers, estimated last month the jobless rate would reach 9.5 per cent next year.

Since last July, when the rate was 7 per cent, the unemployment rate has been increasing steadily, particularly in big industrial states such as Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

The rapidly growing number of unemployed young people, aged between 16 and 19, is particularly worrying especially at the state level where outbreaks of inner-city violence are feared. At the end of last month, nearly 1.9 million young people were without jobs.

The November figures indicate that the present economic downturn is widespread, affecting even the southern "sun belt" regions where growth and employment have been explosive in recent years.

Unemployment in the building industry, one of the fastest growing in the "sun belt" regions, has more than doubled since last November.

It is also significant that employment in the retail trade, which traditionally swells in the period before Christmas, was less than usual.

In West Germany, almost 250,000 jobs have been lost in the last two months, while the number of short-time workers rose by nearly 70,000 last month to 436,000.

Rising unemployment has forced the Government to amend its budget for the next 12 months. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, told Parliament that the fight against unemployment was the Government's top priority. A decision on measures to stimulate employment would be made late next month.

Heseltine's right to speed house sales challenged

By David Walker

Norwich City Council is to ask in the High Court on Monday for an order to stop the Government taking over its housing stock to accelerate the sale of homes to tenants.

Lawyers will seek an order from the Divisional Court quashing the use by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, of intervention powers given him by the Housing Act, 1980. He told the House of Commons on Thursday that this "very serious step" was being taken to allow the council's tenants to exercise their right to buy.

The council's record of having sold only 280 of its 25,000 houses and flats last year is considered inadequate by the Government. The council asserts that it will reach the Government's target of 800 sales four months after the deadline of February, 1982, set by the Department of the Environment.

Mr Leonard Stevenson, leader of the Labour-controlled council, said yesterday that 90 sales had been completed in November and Mr Heseltine's "hell for leather" haste was distorting the council's housing programme. "There are no protests planned. It is a constitutional issue we are challenging in court", he said.

Calling himself an "extremely moderate" member of the Labour Party, from an area where the sitting Labour MPs had faced no difficulties in being reselected, he denied that the council had any objection to selling to tenants. His objection was to being forced to sell by a government department.

Norwich's resort to law will not stop the appointment by the Department of the Environment of a local solicitor to handle the takeover and sales. But it may delay the arrival in the city of the Civil Service team to back him up.

The team will place advertisements in local newspapers informing tenants where to get information and where to lodge applications to buy.

At least a score of other councils, some Conservative-controlled, have not sold their houses and flats at the required rate. For example, East Hertfordshire District Council, which covers Bishop's Stortford, has sold 125 properties this year from its stock of 10,000, a ratio much the same as Norwich's.

The High Court has this year heard a joint action by the inner London boroughs which are Labour-controlled, led by Camden, which succeeded in making Mr Heseltine repay several millions of pounds in grants. The London Borough of Hackney is shortly to sue the Secretary of State for penalizing it for its spending on inner city projects.

Mr Heseltine's action was yesterday called "another example of his utter contempt for local democracy" by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo).

Mr Michael Blick, chairman of the union's local government committee, said that no extra money had been provided by the Government to help housing departments to sell houses.

□Derby City Council and the London boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets claim that Mr Heseltine is acting unlawfully under the Local Government Act, 1972, in forcing them to use private auditors instead of the district auditing service.

£100,000 gift to save lives of 15 children

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

Mr John James, the millionaire and philanthropist, is to give £100,000 to the bone marrow transplant programme at the Westminster Hospital next April, to save the lives of 15 children needing transplants.

The district management team for the hospital is also going to finance any expansion by the transplant unit in this financial year. The unit normally carries out 25 transplants a year but this year is aiming at a total of 40.

It was disclosed in *The Times* on Thursday that 97 children had died in the last five years because they could not be given transplants.

The children are suffering from either leukaemia or inborn errors of the metabolism such as gargoylism, in which the child suffers crippled joints, impaired vision and brain damage.

Numerous offers of financial help flooded into the hospital after the article, from a range of people including an estate agent, a marine underwriter and a film producer.

Professor John Hobbs, head of the transplant team at the hospital, said he was very grateful for all the help. "It means we shall no longer have to make heartbreaking decisions about which children should live or die."

Mr James has given several large sums to medical causes. He gave £300,000 last year to Harefield Hospital, west London, for its heart transplant programme and £500,000 to St Peter's Hospice, Bristol, provided it matched the sum. He built up his fortune from a small radio and electrical business he bought in 1946 for £1,000. He expanded it to 300 shops and sold it for almost £6m in 1960.

Labour and the left-wing threat

Foot plea for tolerance in party

From Ronald Kershaw, Hull

Displaying that air of disarming vagueness for which he is renowned, Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition Leader, yesterday descended on Kingston-upon-Hull. As he had taken Parliament and the Labour movement by the ears the previous day with his repudiation of the unfortunate Mr Peter Tatchell, the Labour Party left-wing candidate for Southwark, Bermondsey, in south London, one might have expected a certain tenseness in his demeanour.

In the event the only tenseness was when Mr Foot fell down the organ well of the Central Methodist Church hall, where the meeting was held. He appeared to be unharmed.

At a public meeting of 500 people, he made no reference to the Tatchell case and confined his speech to a call for unity and tolerance.

He said: "We must seek to practise it in our own ways. We will not be able to make and build a tolerant, compassionate and decent society for our people if we are not able to build a tolerant, decent and compassionate Labour party of our own. We must reassert our determination and desire to serve the people of this country."

Earlies he opened Hull's new £300,000 innovation centre, which aims to provide low cost or free space in which prototype products or design work may be developed by individuals with business ideas.

It was while he was in the centre that a parade of about 60 people gathered to chant about education cuts. Mr Foot, to the momentary consternation of the police, advanced on them congratulating them on their demonstration.

That was a move which produced a few puzzled countenances, particularly in the light of Mr Foot's condemnation of Mr Tatchell 24 hours earlier, apparently for advocating extraparliamentary opposition to the Government's policies.

"These demonstrations", he told them, "can help to change the climate throughout the country."

Loud cheers and applause sent Mr Foot on a tour of the old town area of Hull, clutching a letter from Hull University union, and later to the new Humber Bridge. About Mr Tatchell not a word: "I have not come here to talk about that", he told assembled reporters. Whether he was saving explanations or observations for later was anybody's guess.

□ Eleven members of the ruling Labour group on Southwark Borough Council who have defected to the Social Democratic Party were accused yesterday of flouting public opinion in the area (Richard Ford writes).

A bitter war of words broke out between the SDP's latest recruits, a group of local councillors, and Mr Tatchell. And among some local SDP members and Liberals misgivings were being expressed about the defectors.

The 11 said they were quitting Labour because "unpleasant left-wing extremists" controlled the constituency and local party organizations.

Mr Tatchell criticized several of those who have defected, saying: "These people who claim that we do not represent local people have gone completely against the views of the local community. They have flouted public opinion."

□ Mr Tatchell was born in Australia, although his family originated from England. He was brought up in a working-class family Melbourne. He had had a comprehensive school education until the age of 16, when he says he had to leave school to supplement the family income and found work as a carpenter, painter and decorator.

To avoid two years' imprisonment for avoiding the Vietnam draft in his home country, he came to England in 1971, where he lived in Wood Green, north London, working as a painter and decorator.

Mr Tatchell, holds an Australian passport but is in the process of taking British citizenship. He works part-time as an adviser at a day centre for the homeless in London.

He joined the Labour Party four years ago and moved to Bermondsey and has been secretary of the constituency party for 18 months. He has promised that he will take only an average skilled worker's salary of £8,000 when in the House of Commons. The rest of his MP's salary would be given up to the local Labour Party and the local community.

Paul and Susan St Claire: Taunted the police.

'Bonnie and Clyde' are jailed

A married couple became a "Bonnie and Clyde" robbery team to pay for their expensive country home, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday. Armed with a sawn-off shotgun, an imitation pistol and a knife, the masked pair raided village post offices, tying up and threatening elderly staff.

In one raid the wife ordered a postmaster to hand over his keys adding: "or I'll blow your brains out". They also sent a postcard to the police, taunting them with: "Happy hunting, yokels".

In just over a year the couple stole £20,000. Only £1,000 was recovered. Most of the money was spent on an extension to their large, detached bungalow at Winterslow, near Salisbury, where they kept five horses, peacocks, doves and prize-winning dogs.

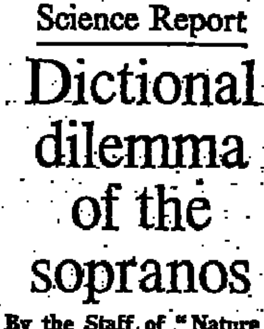
They were caught last May when a detective sergeant realized that a jacket the husband was wearing was similar to one worn on one of the raids.

Susan St Clair, aged 37, a mother of three, and Paul St Clair, aged 32, admitted 14 charges, including robbery, theft and possession of a firearm. Paul St Clair asked for a further 15 offences to be considered, and was jailed for 12 years.

Susan St Clair was jailed for five years. Judge Norman Brodrick said it had to be shown that "the game is not worth the candle".

Mr Keith Cutler, for the prosecution, said the couple had carried out a series of well planned robberies.

They had tied and gagged post office staff, hitting one woman aged 61



Science Report

Dictional dilemma of the sopranos

By the Staff of "Nature"

Every soprano is caught on the horns of an inescapable dilemma, research at the Institute of Phonetics, Aix-en-Provence, France, has proved. If she sings aesthetically, no one will understand the words she sings. If her diction is perfect, her singing will be below par.

Professor Mario Rossi and his team at Aix-en-Provence discovered this in an experiment which tested the intelligibility of speech as its loudness and pitch were increased.

As a voice gets louder it becomes more and more difficult to distinguish the vowels, Professor Rossi found. At normal speech levels (below 80 decibels) some 15 different vowel sounds can be distinguished. But above 80 decibels the number drops rapidly to three: ee, ah and oo.

And when the voice is sung, the pitch itself introduces distortions. Between a bass low C (64 cycles a second) and middle F (352 cycles a second), the frequency range most used in speech, all 15 vowel sounds are easily heard and sung.

But between middle F and middle A (440 cycles a second) only "a" as in "lay", "e" as in "led" and "o" as in "lob" can be distinguished. Between middle A and the next E (660 cycles a second) there is only "ee" and "a", and above that E all the vowels sound the same.

But sopranos can reach beyond that E, even as far as an octave above in the case of a light coloratura soprano, so it is not surprising that their diction becomes unintelligible. In fact only a quarter to a third of the range of a soprano lies in the fully intelligible region. The bass voice, on the other hand, is much better off: it lies in the same range as speech itself.

Consonants also suffer in singing. The fricative sounds like "f", "v", "s", "z", "ch", "sh", "j" and "r" cause turbulence in the air stream and sound unmusical. Other consonants like "p", "t", "k", "b", "d" and "g" stop the air stream.

The result is an irresolvable conflict, in which the music always wins. Those who wish to understand each line of an opera must take a libretto.



Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 25; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 500 mils; Denmark Dkr 7; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 6.50; France Frs 6.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 75; Holland Gl 3; Iran IR 135; Iraq LD 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1600; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon L1 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 6.50; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 75; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 7.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria L$5.50; Tunisia Din .600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50.

PYM SELLS MANSION FOR £5,000

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the House of Commons, has sold his 40-room ancestral home for £5,000. His decision was announced in a statement yesterday from his son, Mr Jonathan Pym, two years after Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, ruled that Mr Pym could not demolish the empty eighteenth-century building.

The Pym family named the buyer as a company run by Mr Christopher Martin, a Cambridge architect who has obtained planning permission to restore the house, Hazells Hall, and convert it

It is almost 10 years since Mr Pym failed to obtain permission to demolish the building, which is north-east of Sandy, Bedfordshire. It has been empty since 1968 and Mr Pym's family have lived in a modern house near by

Estimates of the cost of restoration have risen from £500,000 when the family applied for leave to demolish, to just under £1m today.

Times Newspapers chief 'had talks about closure'

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Gerald Long, managing director of Times Newspapers, spoke yesterday of the possibility that the papers would have to close if economies were not achieved.

Mr Long was answering questions concerning the future of the papers and a report that they might be closed or sold off next year. He said he knew of no plan or possibility of their being sold. But he had, he said, had "quite a few conversations" on the possibility of shutting them down.

The papers' losses have reached £8m since July 1. Mr Long said they might go to £13m or even higher.

The financial situation was very worrying and he hoped some action could be sought to limit the losses. But he described as rubbish a report that there had to be a halving of the 4,000 workforce over the next few months.

"Wholesale statements like that really distress me, reported as they are in such crude and primitive terms", he said. The organization was a complicated one and each department had to be looked at separately. To give an overall figure was impossible.

In the whole of his involvement with the newspapers, he said, which went back to December of last year, when Mr Rupert Murdoch told him he was going to bid for *The Times*, he had not been involved with or witnessed any discussion on the sale of the papers.

Commenting on a report that *The Times* might be printed in France, Mr Long said the daily Continental sale of 20,000 copies was subject to the vagaries of the weather and the high cost of air transport.

"It would please me to think we could have a distribution of *The Times* on the Continent no matter what the weather was like—it is something we might have a look at in the future."

Another MP looks towards SDP

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Raymond Fletcher, who has represented Ilkeston, Derbyshire, for 17 years, may be the latest Labour MP not to be reselected by his constituency party. If so, he could become another recruit for the Social Democrats.

Mr Fletcher faces a reselection meeting in Ilkeston this afternoon, and as he left London last night he said: "I am going up there on the asumption that I will not win the nomination".

He added: "I have considered joining the Social Democrats, but I have not yet made up my mind. If I am defeated, I shall do some very hard thinking about my position. Meanwhile I intend to remain as a Labour MP."

The man poised to oust Mr Fletcher is Mr David Bookbinder, leader of Derbyshire County Council.

Mr Fletcher opposes the official Labour Party policy of withdrawal from the EEC, and he is not in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Although Mr Bookbinder takes the opposite view on both issues, Mr Fletcher said he did not think the opposition to his reselection was about policy differences. "I am interested in international affairs and defence, and they seem to prefer someone who is more concerned with domestic issues inside the constituency."

Whoever wins the nomination will probably have to go through another selection process before the next general election, as boundary changes are likely to mean the end of the Ilkeston constituency in its present form.

□ Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition Leader, has persuaded Mr Stanley Cohen, Labour MP for Leeds, South-east, to change his mind about not seeking reselection. Mr Cohen said yesterday: "I have been given certain assurances by Mr Foot and as a result I have been persuaded to reverse my decision."

Political muppets, page 6

More test tube babies on NHS

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Work on test tube babies financed by the National Health Service is being rapidly expanded under the direction of Mr Robert Winston, head of the infertility clinic at the Hammersmith Hospital, London.

The expansion coincides with the news that Mrs Lesley Brown, aged 34, mother of Louise Brown, the world's first test tube baby, is expecting her second such baby next July.

Mrs Brown, who lives with her husband in Bristol, was treated at the Bourn Hall Clinic, in Cambridgeshire, where the test tube pioneers, Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards, are doing their work. The 11-day stay in October cost about £1,600.

Mr Winston intends to step up his work at the Hammersmith from treating between one and two women a week to 12 a week.

He said he thought that the high success rate of Dr Edwards and Mr Steptoe was largely due to the large number of women they had treated.

The team at the Hammersmith had achieved two pregnancies in the 30 women they had treated, but they had both resulted in miscarriages.

Mr Winston was confident that with the increased number of women being treated at the hospital the first test tube baby under the health service would follow soon.

□ Mrs Rita Barker, aged 36, a mother of 11 children, has agreed to try to conceive a baby by artificial insemination.

Mrs Barker, who lives in Nottingham, will be inseminated with the sperm of Mr Harry Taylor, a postman. If a child is born she will hand it over to Mr Taylor and his wife, who advertised in a Sunday newspaper for a woman to bear them a child.

PARLIAMENT December 4 1981

IDC controls to be abolished

INDUSTRY

The Industrial Development Certificate control of new industrial development in non-assisted areas is to be suspended until further notice with a saving of at least £100,000 a year, Mr John MacGregor Under-Secretary of State for Industry, announced during a debate in the Commons on the effects of Government policies on the West Midlands.

The existence of the control, he said, may have discouraged new investment in the West Midlands and elsewhere, as the IDC requirements were a psychological barrier to investment. The procedure was expensive to run and had outlived its usefulness.

An order would be introduced before Christmas to revoke the regulations which prescribe the kinds of industrial buildings in relation to which the IDS were currently required.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab), opening the debate, said the number of registered unemployed in the West Midlands had risen from just over 5 per cent in May, 1979, a figure lower than the national average, to 14.8 per cent in the latest figures, an increase of more than 170 per cent since the Government took office. Unemployment had increased substantially more in the West Midlands than in any other of the United Kingdom. In some parts of the region it was 25 to 30 per cent. The number of notified redundancies had risen from more than 19,000 in 1979 to more than 47,000 n 1981.

If British Leyland closed, the West Midlands would be left an outright industrial desert. There was no question of the Labour Party allowing the company to go to the wall. BL management should have learnt a lesson from the events of the past few days in their treatment of the trade unions.

We want to see (he said) a more sensitive attitude on the part of the BL management towards industrial relations. The semi-dictatorial attitude of Sir Michael Edwardes is unacceptable.

Much of the tragedy which had hit the area was due directly to Government economic policies — high interest rates; an uncompetitive exchange rate which made exporting very difficult; and tight money control.

Mr Edward Heath had said rightly that monetarism had no intellectual justification, and it was monetarism which had hit the West Midlands. The CBI had said there was no sign of industrial recovery in the region and business confidence was low.

When the economy started to pick up again, it was unlikely that the same numbers of people would be taken back into the work force. Due to changes in technology the prospect of a return to anything near full employment in the West Midlands was low.

Mr Iain Mills (Meriden, C) said neither the West Midlands nor Britain at large was free from the need to compete with other nations. There was no magic sealing off either of this island or its centre in the West Midlands.

The blindness of the trade union movement in the West Midlands, particularly towards restrictive practices, was only equalled by the blindness of industrial management which had pursued with equal blindness the inability to succeed with innovation and create an industrial working atmosphere which would be successful.

Miss Betty Boothroyd (West Bromwich, West, Lab) said the Government maintained that sacrifices had to be made as part of the exercise to produce a fit, lean industrial base. This was rubbish. Even the Government's own business friends did not accept the fit, lean, health farm approach any longer.

Mr Julius Silverman (Birmingham, Erdington, Lab) said the BL tea-break dispute could have been avoided. If you were prepared to negotiate you did so through the official channels and the official representatives of the unions. In the long run it paid from the point of view of industrial relations.

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said some of the remarks he heard from BL employees in his constituency made him worried about the management at Longbridge.

Men still complained that they never saw a boss. They hardly knew sometimes who their real boss was. The leaders should show themselves capable of good leadership. Taxpayers would not again agree to pay the huge sums which had been paid to British Leyland. For British Leyland 1982 must be make or break year.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C) said it was up to the Government to remove the barriers and burdens placed in the way of more effective competition.

Industry could not be expected to compete successfully when fuel prices formed such a large proportion of its costs and were not at the level of that of continental competitors.

The forging and vehicle industries could not comprehend why Spanish imports came here at low or zero tariffs whereas British exports to Spain were subjected to a prohibitive tariff.

Mr John MacGregor, Under-Secretary of State for Industry, said that in relative terms the West Midlands had suffered most from the present recession. But to go on spending more and more from the public purse — which meant more taxes and borrowing — would cripple industry.

Import controls would do nothing to deal with Britain's fundamental uncompetitiveness except to make it worse. Withdrawal from the EEC would have a devastating effect.

The problems of the region were not new. The West Midlands was currently facing its most difficult period since the war. The early 1970s had been a period of stagnation. Productivity fell, markets disappeared, and some firms in the staple industries fell into the decline that befell the uncompetitive.

Britain had done worse in recent years in the car industry, engineering and metal working. These staple industries had to be made more competitive, so that demand from customers grew, new technologies had to be introduced, and over-manning eradicated.

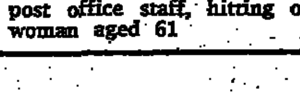
The industrial base of the region had to broaden away from such extensive reliance on a few troubled sectors. Management and workers at all levels had to work to achieve the level of competitiveness necessary for survival in the world of today.

The IDC control of new industrial development in non-assisted areas played a positive role in regional and industrial policy in the 1960s and early 1970s. Since then they had become increasingly less important. Since 1975, only 28 out of some 7,000 applications had been refused — a refusal rate of less than 0.4 per cent — and there was little evidence that the procedure had caused firms to relocate projects in the assisted areas.

In my view (he said) the existence of the control may have discouraged new investment in the West Midlands and elsewhere and it is clear that the region fully supports this view.

Mr George Park, for the Opposition (Coventry, North-East, Lab), said the Government, not content with 38,000 unemployed in Coventry and 10 times that in the region, it pursued them into the dole queues, chopping their benefits and sending more and more down the slippery slope to the official poverty level.

The debate concluded.



Law Report December 5 1981

Family Division

Clore estate executors replaced

In re the Estate of Sir Charles Clore, deceased
Before Mr Justice Ewbank
[Judgment delivered December 4]

Executors who had shown a lack of urgency in the administration of the estate of the late Sir Charles Clore and who had, by acting in another capacity, allowed more than £20m to be transferred out of the jurisdiction could be removed as executors under the provisions of section 162 (1) of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act 1925 as amended by the Administration of Justice Act 1928.

On the application of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, Mr Justice Ewbank granted letters of administration *ad colligenda bona* to the Official Solicitor.

Paragraph (b) of section 9 of the 1928 Act provides: "If by reason of the insolvency of the estate of the deceased or of any other special circumstances it appears to the court to be necessary or expedient to appoint as administrator some person other than the person who, but for this provision, would by law have been entitled to the grant of administration, the court may in its discretion ... appoint as administrator such person as it thinks expedient ...".

Mr John F. Mummery for the commissioners, Mr Leolin Price, QC and Mr P. W. E. Taylor, QC for the executors.

MR JUSTICE EWBANK said that the matter came before him on an appeal by the executors from the decision of Mr Bayne-Powell, the Senior Registrar, who on the application of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue had granted letters of administration *ad colligenda bona* of the estate of the late Sir Charles Clore to the Official Solicitor.

Sir Charles who had been born in England in 1904 had died on July 26, 1979. Sir Charles had made two wills. A will relating to property in Monaco (the Monaco will) and another will (the general will) which dealt with all property excepting the property in Monaco. By the Monaco will Sir Charles left his assets in Monaco to his daughter. By the general will all the assets were to go to three trusts created by the testator in Jersey in 1979.

Although the testator had died more than two years ago there had been no grant of probate. The executors had to deliver accounts and receipts for capital transfer tax before probate could be granted. The executors said that there were no assets within the jurisdiction to meet any tax claim and the estate in England was insolvent.

Mr Alan Clore, the son of the deceased, had issued a caveat. The Senior Registrar had taken the view that the issue of a caveat did not affect the power of the court to make a limited grant of probate. His Lordship agreed with that view.

The executors had opposed the appointment of the Official Solicitor on the ground that it was inconvenient and a new administrator would have great difficulty in dealing with all the many details of the estate and that the executors should be appointed instead of the Official Solicitor.

The court had been referred to *In re Taylor (deceased)*. ([1950] 2 All ER 446) in which Mr Justice Willmer, considering the same section, had said that "special circumstances" related only to special circumstances in connexion with the estate itself or the administration of the estate.

In his Lordship's opinion the court had a discretion not to impose any limitation on the words "special circumstances" and the court could look at any other circumstances which the court thought relevant and which would lead the court to think it necessary to pass over executors. The special circumstances could be the conduct of the executors relating to the administration of the estate.

Sir Charles had acquired a large landed estate in Herefordshire from the Board of Governors of Guy's Hospital. In May, 1979 Sir Charles had conveyed the Guy's estate to Stype Investments (Jersey) Trust. The trust held the property as a bare nominee for Sir Charles. Sir Charles requested the trust to sell the property to the Prudential Assurance Company Ltd for £20.5m.

Two of the directors of Stype Investments (Jersey) Ltd were Mr Nathan Meyohas, who lived in France, and Mr Joseph Kasierer, who lived in Israel. They were also the executors. It was arranged that the moneys payable on completion would be remitted direct to Jersey by Prudential.

The commissioners also said that the testator had shares to the value of £13m which had been sold and the moneys transferred out of the jurisdiction.

The executors replied that there was nothing secret about the sale of those shares. The testator had sold the shares in 1978. Six aeroplanes which had been owned by Sir Charles had not been sold and were a deteriorating asset. They were said to be worth about £4m.

The insolvency of the estate and the fact that both executors lived abroad coupled with the complete lack of urgency shown by them to administer the estate were circumstances which entitled the court to dismiss the appeal and grant letters of administration *ad colligenda bona* of the estate of Sir Charles Clore deceased.

Solicitors: Solicitor for Inland Revenue; Titmuss, Sainer & Webb.

'Anton Piller' order against defaulting husband

Emanuel v Emanuel and Another
Before Mr Justice Wood
[Judgment delivered December 2]

Mr Justice Wood, in the Family Division, gave reasons for granting an *Anton Piller* order on November 10, on the ex parte application of Mrs Minnie Emanuel of Brentwood, Essex, a former wife. The order which was executed on November 12 enabled the wife's solicitors to enter the home of Mr Dan Emanuel, the former husband, at 250 Cranbrook Gardens, Ilford, to look for, inspect and photograph all documents relating to his earnings and capital from January 1979 including disposal of assets and to take into possession any such documents and make copies.

There was a similiar further order in respect of Mrs Adele Vale, of Redcliffe Gardens Ilford, which enabled the wife's solicitors to look for documents relating to the purchase of that house in Redcliffe Gardens by Mrs Vale, the second respondent.

Mr Daniel Serota for Mrs Minnie Emanuel; Mr Victor Levene for Mr Dan Emanuel; Mr David P. Friedman for Mrs Adele Vale.

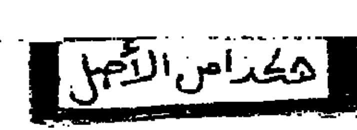
MR JUSTICE WOOD said it was an application for an *Anton Piller* order. It was said to be the first such application in the Family Division. The jurisdiction to grant such an exceptional order on an application made ex parte stemmed from a line of authority commencing with *EMI Ltd v Pandit* ([1975] 1 WLR 302). Mr Justice Templeman had granted the plaintiffs on an *ex parte* application an order to enter premises occupied by the defendant and to inspect, photograph and remove articles allegedly infringing copyright. That case was approved by the Court of Appeal in the leading authority *Anton Piller KG v Manufacturing Processes Ltd* ([1976] 1 Ch 55).

In that case the court had held that in exceptional circumstances where plaintiffs had a strong prima facie case; when actual or potential damage to them was very serious and there was clear evidence that defendants possessed vital material which they might destroy or dispose of so to defeat the ends of justice before any application inter partes could be made, the court had an inherent jurisdiction to order defendants to allow plaintiffs' representatives to enter defendants' premises to inspect and remove such material. Those principles were followed in a number of cases.

The present proceedings came before his Lordship so that an order made on December 7, 1979, could be set aside on the ground of fraud and for a rehearing of the wife's claim for financial relief. By that order the husband had been ordered to transfer properties to his former wife and to pay her a lump sum. He had not paid anything and after giving an undertaking to Mr Justice Sheldon not to sell a cottage in Romford had sold it in November, 1979, for £11,500 and had spent the proceeds of sale. He had sold the premises in Redcliffe Gardens to his sister, the second respondent.

The husband had shown scant respect for any order. He had lied and misled the court. The husband was prepared to flout the court's authority so that the normal process of law was rendered nugatory. Justice could not be achieved without making the order and there was grave danger that evidence would be removed or destroyed. No real harm would be caused to the husband by the order as the only documents sought were those which he ought to have produced and should have been produced.

Solicitors: Scannell & Co, Brentwood; S. S. Bookatz & Co, Ilford; Edward Oliver & Bellis, Ilford.



Relief in the art world over higher grants

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council, museums and galleries reacted with relief bordering on gratitude yesterday to the announcement of an 8 per cent increase in grants for them for 1982-83, which will nevertheless mean some reduction in spending.

They had expected worse news, with a cut in grant which might have jeopardized some of their activities, and the museums and galleries earlier in the week expressed fears that a failure of the grant to keep pace with inflation would mean closures.

The suddenly arranged announcement of the grant for next year by Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, certainly appeared to be an attempt by the Government to allay those fears.

In a Commons written reply yesterday he declared: "Some economies will continue to be necessary in this as in all other fields, but I believe that the increased allocations I am proposing are fair and reasonable".

He said later that his announcement should "relieve some of the apprehension" expressed recently. He accepted that the increases did not give complete compensation for inflation in all cases, but insisted that they were better than most people had thought possible or likely.

"This reflects a collective decision of the Government to recognize the contribution the arts can make to the country and a very real benefit to the balance of payments from tourism."

For the national museums and galleries, whose costs are dominated by wages and salaries, the provision for wage inflation is roughly 6 to 7 per cent. If public service staff pay is kept to the Government's 4 per cent guideline, they will have done well out of the grants.

The increase on running costs has been achieved at the expense of the purchase grants, which have been kept at a standstill for the next year.

The Arts Council, which distributes grants among the performing arts, has had its capital grant reduced, but its revenue grant is increased by 9 per cent. Mr Channon said: "I am not pretending that there is not a small squeeze on the Arts Council and the living arts, but it is not too bad in the economic circumstances. I would hope that very few companies will suffer."

Among the other grants in a total of £193.560m (compared with £178.719m in 1981-82), the British Library grant increases from £38.463m to £42.961m, and the library is to start a new building programme next year.

Included in the British Film Institute allocation is a £100,000 allowance for work on the preservation of the deteriorating film stock of the National Film Archive, and £100,000 for storage of the archive. The Crafts Council's allocation of £1.6m includes £100,000 for its new exhibition gallery, which is planned to open in January, and there is a special £100,000 for the Museums and Galleries Commission for local museums, towards the cost of grants to individual museums for capital projects.

Mr Kenneth Robinson, chairman of the Arts Council, said that "I am much relieved that the cut is less severe than was foreshadowed."

Mr Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, asked that the museum should be freed from the civil service staff ceiling so that the museum could open its new gallery next year. "Otherwise there is a real danger that our Constable collection, for instance, will never be seen by the public again."

Grants for the Arts

	1981-82 Cash (£m)	1982-83 Cash (£m)
Arts Council	80.000	86.000
British Film Institute	6.400	7.014
National Film School	0.740	0.840
Crafts Council	1.400	1.600
South Bank Theatre Board	0.600	0.650
Public Lending Right	0.293	0.300
British Museum	11.116	11.722
Imperial War Museum	3.844	4.130
National Gallery	5.697	6.041
National Portrait Gallery	1.606	1.699
National Maritime Museum	3.622	3.855
Tate Gallery	4.708	5.025
Wallace Collection	0.671	0.765
Science Museum	*8.448	7.041
Victoria and Albert	*8.850	8.376

Local purchase grants for 1981-82 are included in the figures for the Science Museum (£15,000) and the V and A Museum (£1m) which are not included in their 1982-83 totals.

Army bands face cut in their musicians

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

The Army's bands are likely to lose up to a quarter of their members in economies approved by the Army Board yesterday. The proposals have to be confirmed by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence. Army musicians now number about 2,400.

Senior officers, while cutting the number of soldiers, are trying to preserve most of the bands because of their value in boosting morale. There are some 23 big staff bands, belonging mainly to large regiments and corps such as the Royal Artillery (which has the biggest band of all) and the Royal Corps of Signals.

Most staff bands have 55 musicians, but the famous guards' bands have 66. Ordinary regimental bands have only about 30 after bearing the brunt of an earlier round of economies four years ago, when the number of army musicians was reduced by 235.

It is understood that at least one of the famous staff bands is likely to be abolished as the Army struggles to find the 7,000 manpower economies laid down in the Defence Review last summer. The band at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst may also disappear.

In addition all staff and regimental bands should be pruned to the minimum necessary to make the sound of music to which soldiers love to march.

The loss of several hundred more musicians would have an effect on the Army's war plans as well as its esprit de corps. On the battlefield they switch to the job of stretcher bearers, and in peacetime train for that task. Officers point out that as such they perform a vital function for which replacements would have to be found in an emergency.

DOCTORS TO CLAIM 12 PER CENT

Doctors are about to submit a pay claim of about 12 per cent for next year, three times as high as the government's 4 per cent public sector pay norm. It is understood doctors want at least 9 per cent to keep pace with average earnings next year.

That claim, and one for more than 13 per cent by junior hospital doctors, will be examined by the doctors' and dentists' independent review body with their recommendation going to the Government. Last year the review body award was cut, and other public sector workers will be watching the final settlement.



Mr Michael Quinn, aged 35, who becomes chef de cuisine at the Ritz, London, on Monday. He is the first Briton to hold the post.

Solicitor to keep cottage until appeal

The family evicted from a cottage under the owner's "buy-back" clause failed yesterday in a court plea to be allowed to return to the property until the dispute is tried in the High Court.

On November 23 the court of Appeal ruled that the issue of whether Mr Richard Langdale, a solicitor, had taken unfair advantage of Mr Thomas Danby when he sold him the cottage at Dale Road, Elloughton, near Hull, should be heard in the High Court.

Lord Denning Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lords Justices Dunn and Fox, said the cottage, which is now empty, should remain in the hands of Mr Langdale and his wife until the dispute was resolved.

Lord Denning said Mr Danby and his family had been offerd two council houses and were about to accept one. Mrs Danby was cleaning it.

"It seems to me that it is very important that the present position should be preserved and that Mr Danby and his wife should go into the council house and occupy it until the trial", he said.

Mr Danby said he had been unable to carry on his business as a self-employed joiner because of the eviction and ill health.

Mr Gerald Godfrey, QC, for Mr Danby, said he was not allowed to carry on his business from a council property.

Mr John Samuels, QC, for Mr Langdale, said that since the eviction Mr Langdale's daughter had moved furniture into the cottage. Mr Danby had never "overtly" carried on his business at the cottage, and if he were to do so it would be in breach of express terms in the conveyance.

An application by Mr Langdale for leave to appeal to the House of Lords against the decision to reopen the case was refused. Mr Langdale can still seek leave directly.

Footmen's stolen goods were kept at palace

Two royal footmen who stole gelignite and mining equipment to follow their hobby of caving, stored some of the stolen goods at Buckingham Palace, a court was told yesterday.

They claimed they plotted their crimes only because their jobs were so boring and lonely. Sometimes they had hardly any real work for days, they told Gloucester Crown Court.

Andrew Gildersleve, aged 23, was jailed for 12 months and Stephen Beevis, aged 21, for nine months for their 15-months series of robberies involving goods valued at more than £6,000.

Judge Anthony Bulger, who was told that no explosives were stored in the Palace, said their crimes were "serious but not sinister."

Both men were dismissed as soon as their crimes were discovered.

Police at Coleford, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, uncovered the offences when they spotted a Land-Rover with false plates being driven into a car park opposite the police station on July 18 last year.

It had been stolen from a local mining company. They kept watch and when Gildersleve, a deputy sergeant footman, returned to it they questioned him.

He first told them he had borrowed ot from a farmer who removed swill from the Palace. But he later admitted it contained explosives. Police recovered 85 sticks of gelignite and 30 detonators. Twelve of the sticks were "sweating" and all had been destroyed , Mr Roger Evans, for the prosecution, said.

Gildersleve told the police he wanted the explosives to blast his way into an old mine and he admitted that some of the equipment he had stolen was stored in a palace cellar used as a hobbies room. Later Beevis was seen by police and both men made statements.

They jointly admitted three charges of theft, involving £1,270 of equipment, including 55 sticks of gelignite, and the £2,000 Land-Rover with £3,000 of equipment. Gildersleve, of Monkton Road, Minster, Ramsgate, Kent, further admitted stealing 36 sticks of gelignite and 30 detonators and asked for 27 other offences to be considered.

Beevis, of Woodford Road, Maidstone, Kent, asked for further ten joint offences to be taken into consideration.

Mr Richard Gordon, for Gildersleve, said there was something of the magpie in his "reckless and stupid" thefts. "While employment at Buckingham Palace carried honour and prestige, there were lonely times", he said.

That, coupled with his interest in caving, led him to commit offences he would otherwise not have thought of. A character reference from the Master of the Royal Household showed he should have had a bright future. He had risen three rungs up the ladder of the footmen's hierarchy.

Mr Gavin Arthur, for Beevis, said he loved his job but for hours, even days, at a time there was no actual work of "an onerous nature".

During these hours of boredom he came into contact with Gildersleve. Beevis was the follower in the partnership and had no interest in mining or caving before meeting Gildersleve, he said.

The court was told that of the items mentioned in the charges all but £752 worth had been recovered.

TGWU to end party vote chaos

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union, while publicly denying any embarrassment over its eccentric voting record in the Labour Party deputy leadership contest, is to draw up a new system for deciding which candidate to support in future elections.

Left-wing TGWU leaders attracted criticism from inside and outside their union two months ago when they voted for Mr Wedgwood Benn after a hastily conducted branch ballot produced a majority for Mr Denis Healey, the candidate of the centre-right.

Apparently recognizing that they got the worst of both worlds by going out to the branches and then leaving the final decision to the elected lay executive, the transport workers are adopting a mechanism that will stand the test of time.

But the decision taken by the TGWU executive, to investigate at least four options, has not altered the view of Mr Mostyn Evans, the general secretary, that the deputy leadership contest this year was unnecessary and should not be repeated before the next general election.

Mr Evans said yesterday: "My view was that there ought not to be a battle for the leader or deputy leader. That is still my view now."

But he doubted whether the political upheaval created by the first operation of the Labour Party's electoral college would prevent it from winning the next election. "I do not think it will", he said. "We are talking about two years hence. I am reasonably confident that much of the disunity existing in the party will evaporate by then."

Over the next few weeks the TGWU power triumvirate, Mr Evans, Mr Alexander Kitson his deputy, and Mr Larry Smith, executive officer, with the union's political department will try to work out a criticism-proof mechanism within the rules.

The main options are:

To confine the decision of whom to support to the lay executive council, which is divided in favour of the left;

To leave it to the 40-strong delegation to the Labour Party, which is drawn from all areas and trade groups and is more evenly divided politically;

To increase the size of the party delegation, making it in effect a mini-electoral college more representative of the regions and trade groups; and

To ballot the membership, either through a better organized vote of people who turn up to branch meetings or through a secret individual poll, as is done for the election of the general secretary.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Helicopter in reverse rescue

A Royal Navy crew took a sick man aged 78 to Glasgow from the island of Islay yesterday after reversing their Sea King helicopter at a height of only 40 feet a mile and a half over the sea. They flew through a storm with winds of up to 40 knots.

The Navy was called in after an ambulance plane made three unsuccessful attempts to land on the island, in the Inner Hebrides, where the airstrip has no landing aids.

The patient, suffering from bladder trouble, was taken to hospital in Glasgow.

Mother on murder charge

Mrs Heather Lynn Booth, aged 31, of Darwin Grove, Bramhall, Stockport, Greater Manchester, appeared before Stockport magistrates yesterday charged with murdering her daughter Louise, aged two, at Hyde, Greater Manchester, on November 12 last year.

She was also accused of unlawfully and maliciously "administering a poison or noxious thing" to her other daughter, Teresa, aged seven, on October 29 and November 18 last.

There was no application for bail and Mrs Booth was remanded in custody for a week.

Couple killed by soot fall

An elderly couple died after a gust of wind blew soot down their chimney, blocking the boiler flue, an inquest in Nottingham heard yesterday. Mr David Baker, a gas board expert said that soot 6 in thick was blocking the air supply.

Mr William Coggins, aged 72, and his wife Alice, aged 76, were found dead from carbon monoxide poisoning in their flat in Valley Road, Carlton, Nottinghamshire. Verdicts of accidental death were recorded.

Fraud woman got £6,000

An executive secretary who, defrauded the Department of Health and Social Security of £6,000 while working for a shipping company in Glasgow was ordered at Hamilton Sheriff Court yesterday to do 240 hours community service work. Sheriff James Fiddes, QC, imposed the maximum penalty under the scheme.

Mrs Ann Lee, aged 32, a mother of three, of Opal Terrace, Bellshill, Lanarkshire, admitted obtaining £6,001.67 in benefits by fraud.

Ban urged on dangerous goods

Powers are needed to ban the supply of imported dangerous goods, the Institute of Trading Standards Administration said yesterday. Trading standard officers can prosecute only people who are selling the goods or keeping them for sale. They have no powers to cut off the supply by preventing wholesalers or importers from distributing the goods.

By the time offences are discovered and prosecuted potentially lethal goods have often been sold, the institute said.

Seamen end ferry sit in

Seamen on the P & O line's two Liverpool to Belfast ferries, ended a month-long sit-in yesterday after spending the morning making the vessels shipshape.

The crews say they won the dispute because P & O agreed to severance and suspended service payments. They will be first in line for new jobs if a buyer is found for the service.

One prospective purchaser is believed to be Ocean Bank Developments, a new Dublin-based consortium.

Couple die in fire

The bodies of Mr James Cochrane and his wife were found in the bedroom of a tenement in South Inch Place, Perth, yesterday, after a fire which badly damaged their top-floor flat.

FLATS FOR OFFICIALS ATTACKED

From Our Correspondent Sheffield

Conservatives on Sheffield City Council have attacked a Labour decision to give council flats to two officials with family incomes of about £20,000.

Both men have been in Sheffield for less than a year, and one had a house to sell in Coventry. The waiting list in the city is 19,000.

Mr Paul Skelton and Mr Geoffrey Green have been given the tenancies of two flats in the Broomhall complex, where applicants must wait 10 months. They were appointed by the Labour-controlled council as strategy officers. Opposition councillors have dubbed them "the Politburo".

Both earn £10,700 a year, but one lives with a university lecturer and the other with a senior social worker. That boosts their joint incomes to more than £19,000 in one case and £21,000 in the other.

They were originally given temporary council accommodation in line with the council's policy of giving housing aid to key workers. They then applied for permanent tenancies, which were granted.

Councillor Graham Cheetham, Conservative shadow housing chairman, said yesterday: "It is a scandal. It looks very much like preferential treatment. I agree there can be no means tests when allocating council houses, but I think these men must answer the moral question of whether it is right for council officials with family incomes of around £20,000 to take subsidized accomodation."

Mrs Christine Smith, a Conservative housing committee member, said: "I feel sorry for the many people who are patiently waiting their turn, I am furious over this affair and will raise the matter at the next housing committee."

Mr Green said yesterday: "One does not do these things unthinkingly. I would be prepared to argue the moral issue with friends or councillors, but not with the press."

Labour councillors denied that there had been preferential treatment or queue-jumping.

Mass hysteria theory as 46 pupils are taken ill

Forty-six children in a Scottish primary school were taken to hospital yesterday believed to be suffering from mass hysteria. The rest of the 521 pupils were sent home.

Medical help was called to the school, St Vincent's Primary, at East Kilbride, Strathclyde, after morning assembly, and then police, firemen and Gas Board officials attempted, but failed, to find the reason.

A spokesman for Strathclyde Regional Council's education department said a boy fainted during assembly. Some children around him then complained that they felt faint and dizzy. Several then fainted.

The headmistress called for medical help and 46 of the children were taken to hospital. All were sent home later.

The council spokesman and a hospital official said there was no trace of illness in those taken to hospital, and no gas leak was found.

He said there was a possibility that the fainting fits had been caused by a form of mass hysteria. As a precaution the rest of the school was dismissed for the day.

At the hospital Dr Barry Vallance described what happened after the first boy fainted as a group reaction. He said no one taken to the hospital from the school was seriously ill.

The hospital had received an assurance from the police, he added, that there was no cause for concern regarding a noxious substance.

Tory group accused of trying to destroy NUS

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Mr David Aaronovitch, president of the National Union of Students, accused the Federation of Conservative Students (FCS) last night of seeking to destroy the student union movement.

Speaking at the opening of the NUS national conference in Blackpool, he told the 700 delegates representing more than a million members that there were about thirty FCS delegates present, who, he claimed, were out to disrupt and discredit the conference.

The FCS, whose membership has been declining in recent years and is now only about 14,000, has been increasingly virulent of late in its attacks on the NUS, and has been attempting, largely unsuccessfully, to persuade individual student unions to disaffiliate from the union.

Mr Tim Linacre, the FCSM president, has pushed the federation to the far right of the Conservative Party, issuing statements in support of Britain's "vital nuclear deterrent", welcoming the cuts in higher education and recommending the closure of three or four universities. Most recently he welcomed the meagre 4 per cent rise in the student grant as "both sensible and reasonable".

His extreme views have prompted Sir William van Straubenzee, Conservative MP for Wokingham and chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Education Committee, to write urging him to "change your present unhelpful attitude towards the NUS".

Mr Linacre was "doing no service to students in general and Conservative students in particular by actively campaigning against the one body which can effectively represent student interests as a whole. Moreover, I believe you are seriously out of touch in your actions with the views of your rank and file", Sir William wrote.

□ School-leavers who are unemployed and decline to take up a place under the Government's planned new comprehensive education and training scheme for young people would forfeit all rights to social security benefits under government proposals to be announced in a White Paper before Christmas.

Under the present system full-time students are unlikely to get any financial assistance, whereas an unemployed youth aged 16 or 17 is eligible for £16.85 a week in supplementary benefits.

ATTACKS ON PLANS FOR LORRIES

By Michael Baily Transport Correspondent

Attacks on the Government's proposal for heavier lorries continued yesterday with broadsides from county councils in both shires and conurbations.

For the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, Councillor Jack Graham said its members, London, Merseyside, West Midlands, Manchester, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, and Tyne and Wear, were "totally opposed to this blatant raising of weight limits" from a 32 to a 40 tonne maximum in the White Paper.

Promising a campaign to resist the proposals, he said: "Heavier lorries will undoubtedly cause increasing damage to people's homes and privacy, added danger to pedestrians and damage to roads and buildings.

The association wanted higher taxation on heavy lorries to finance lorry parks, more effective controls on over-loading, more freight on the railways, and a national route network for the heavy lorry.

The Association of County Councils described the White Paper as disappointing.

Mr Arnold Sayers, chairman of its planning and transportation committee, said the association, while welcoming moves to make the haulage industry more competitive and the proposals to reduce lorry noise, fumes and vibration, was convinced that the proposals for heavier lorries in the Armitage report should be implemented only as a complete package.

£1m drugs found in tomb

Three Turkish Cypriots were convicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of smuggling top-quality heroin worth more than £1m into Britain in a tombstone. They will be sentenced later this month.

The cargo was discovered by customs officers at Felixstowe in the back of a lorry which arrived from Cyprus in October, 1980. The tombstone was packed in a thin wooden crate among other packages.

Mr Alastair Hill, for the prosecution, said that the customs men sent for a stonemason, who found a secret compartment containing heroin with an estimated street value of £1.25m.

The stone was patched up and sent on to a warehouse in north London, where officers watched to see who collected it. A car arrived and drove away with the tombstone sticking out of the boot. Mr Hill said.

"One of the men in the car realized they were being followed and started taking all manner of twists and turns to lose the tail. They succeeded, but not for very long."

The stone was eventually taken to Moray Road, Finsbury Park. Two days later the customs men found it in a garden.

Three men, all of London, were convicted of smuggling after a month-long trial. They are: Aysan Ziynettin, aged 38, of Stamford Hill; Abdurrhman Mehmet, aged 37, of Canonbury; and Halil Musa, aged 44, of Finsbury Park.

A fourth defendant, Mr Yashar Osman, aged 45, of Camberwell, London, was found not guilty.

£95,866 bomb fund

The fund for the family of Mr Kenneth Howorth, the Metropolitan Police explosives officer killed by the IRA bomb in Oxford Street, London, last October, has reached £95,866.

Army officer drove car at traffic warden

An army officer who twice drove his car at a traffic warden was fined a total of £200 yesterday. Andrew Whiteley, aged 26, of Cromwell Road, Colchester, Essex, a lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps, admitted reckless driving and threatening behaviour when he appeared before the town's magistrates.

Mr Donald Oates, for the prosecution, said that Mr John Parry, a traffic warden, asked Whiteley to move his car, which was parked on the pavement outside a shop in the town.

Whiteley pushed him aside, swore, got into his car and lurched forward at Mr Parry, who was standing in front of it. Whiteley reversed violently, causing pedestrians to jump out of his way, and lurched towards Mr Parry again.

The officer leapt from the car, shouted and swore at the warden, snatched his notebook, tried to tear it up and threw it away. Whiteley, who then drove off, also threatened to "fell" Mr Parry if he booked him.

Mr Richard Plummer, for Whiteley, said that the soldier had been acting second-in-command of his unit attached to a Nato-committed field force, and had been under extreme pressure.

An army spokesman said later that for an officer to be involved in an alleged case of breach of the peace would mean an automatic referral of the court's findings to the Army Board. "It is possible the board would require this officer to resign his commission", he said.

Militia gun fights end Beirut's five-week truce

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Dec 4

Beirut's carefully nurtured five-week ceasefire began to fragment this morning after a night of gun battles between militias loyal to Iran and Iraq.

The two groups fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at each other in the heavily-populated Museitbeh district of the city until Syrian troops and Palestinian guerrillas helped to formulate a local truce at dawn.

Only four hours later, Lebanese police found two big bombs hidden near the city's busiest shopping streets. One of them, hidden under a rubbish bin off Hamra Street, a thoroughfare lined with boutiques and cheap cafes, was defused just 30 minutes before it was due to explode. Near the Kuwait embassy, eight bombs were dismantled with only five minutes to spare, according to the police.

Few Lebanese believed that the five-week truce would last any longer than the hundreds of ceasefires that preceded it. The more cynical politicians here had already observed that the most recent truce had only been imposed before the Fez Arab summit in order to keep Lebanon off the conference agenda and that once the summit had ended fighting would recommence in Beirut.

Last night's fighting, in which at least one gunman died, involved mostly Kurdish guerrillas. A small proxy war between Iraqi and Iranian supporters has been going on in Lebanon for almost two years and the participants presumably do not regard themselves as bound by the ceasefire rules agreed between the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese leftists in mid-October.

Tonight, gangs of militiamen could be seen roaming the streets in the west of Beirut.

The renewed fighting, albeit still on a comparatively local scale, has spawned the usual crop of rumours. The latest of these was that Libyan gunmen tried to kill Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's Middle East envoy, when he was in Beirut on Sunday and Monday.

However, the United States embassy and the Lebanese chief of security both denied the report. So did Shaikh Kamil Jahjah, the Lebanese Attorney-General.

"There is no truth whatsoever in this report", he said, "and I have not been informed of such an attempt. Not today, not yesterday, not one month ago, not two months ago or three months ago." Even amid Lebanon's doubtful security, that passes as a denial.

□ Jerusalem: Israel expressed its concern today to Mr Habib at what it called a heavy build-up of Palestinian guerrilla forces in Lebanon, Israeli officials said (Reuter reports).

Mr Habib, who arrived in Jerusalem from Jordan today on his fourth Middle East mission, went directly into talks with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister.

An Israeli official quoted Mr Shamir as saying to the American envoy during the two-hour talks that Israel was "dissatisfied and concerned over the heavy reinforcements that the Palestinian terrorists have brought into their lines

Raid hero tries to calm Sinai militants

From Christopher Walker, Yamit, Sinai, Dec 4

General Dan Shomron, leader of the Entebbe raid and commander of the southern front, today joined a long list of prominent Israelis who have personally intervened in an effort to calm the growing militancy among Jewish settlers due to be evacuated from their Sinai homes before April 25.

The general, one of Israel's most popular military heroes, arrived at the desert town of Yamit this morning to find the heavy entrance gates welded shut and barricaded with barbed wire and piles of tyres.

Looking down on the barricades was a sandbagged watch tower containing a crude effigy of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, who is condemned by many of the settlers for his part in signing the Camp David accords. One of the Hebrew posters attached to the fence warned the general: "And this is only the beginning."

Over the past 48 hours, the town has been the scene of violent protests which culminated in the burning of a number of government buildings. Last night vigilantes wearing helmets and wielding cudgels appeared to resist a rumoured Army move against the blockade which never materialized.

The latest unrest in Yamit, the largest settlement due to be handed back to Egypt, began on Wednesday night when residents blocked all three entrance roads through the high security fence in protest against the breakdown of negotiations over compensation for local businessmen.

Today, leaders of the protest were anxious to distinguish their campaign from that of another group of Sinai residents who are preparing to resist the evacuation because they insist that the occupied area is part of the Biblical land of Israel.

More than 60 families have arrived in Yamit and the surrounding desert settlements in an effort to fill every house vacated by those Jews prepared to accept the Government's terms and leave peacefully. Over 20 of the families have recently taken over the town's only motel

Mr Avi Yigal, leader of the Businessmen's Committee and the owner of a small factory, explained: "For some of the others the struggle is idealistic, but we are fighting for our bellies. These negotiations have been dragging on for two years and have come to nothing."

□ The General Assembly tonight asked Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, "to consult and cooperate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people" in preparing a report on the Palestinians (AP reports from New York).

The resolution called for "a comprehensive report on the deteriorating living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories", and condemned Israel for those conditions.

Reagan steps up security in wake of Libyan threat

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Dec 4

President Reagan has ordered Secret Service protection for his three top White House aides as Intelligence and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents search the country for a five-man Libyan assassination squad.

A report today in *The New York Times* says law enforcement agencies have been given detailed evidence by an unnamed informant that a Libyan hit-team entered the country at the weekend intent on killing President Reagan, his family, or senior Administration officials.

"They want to make a sensation", a senior law enforcement officer said. "If they can't get the President, they're apparently under instructions to kill anyone close to him."

At first, *The New York Times* says, officers were sceptical of continuing reports that a Libyan hit-team was trying to kill the President, but the informant, who was not an American, had remained credible after intensive questioning.

Security for the President and for Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, has been tightened. Administration officials confirmed yesterday that Secret Service protection had been ordered for Mr Edwin Meese, the White House counsellor, Mr James Baker, the Chief of Staff, and Mr Michael Deaver, his deputy.

Intelligence sources said that Mr Maxwell Rabb, the United States Ambassador to Italy, was hastily flown out of Milan in October because of fears that he was the subject of a Libyan assassination plot.

The sources said Air Force One, the Presidential aircraft, had been equipped with electronic equipment to evade a possible missile attack. Mr Reagan was riding in unmarked cars instead of his official limousine

The Secret Service had recently begun sending decoy motorcades through Washington.

Police help victims of torrential rain through the mud and wreckage of their homes in Teresopolis, Brazil. The flooding has killed 43 people and made 700 homeless in the Rio de Janeiro area.

'Collective security' plea by Haig

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Dec 4

Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, today pledged the United States to prevent any Central American country from becoming a platform for terror and war and offered a new programme of economic assistance to the region.

He repeated his attacks on Cuba whose activities have resulted in what he described as "terror for the innocent".

He told the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in St Lucia: "The United States is prepared to join others in doing whatever is prudent and necessary to prevent any country in Central America from becoming a platform of terror and war in the region." But that would stop short of the use of United States troops.

The main thrust of his speech was a warning against intervention which, he said, should be opposed by "collective security".

"The other nations of Central America must also be asking about the meaning of these militant activities. They fear—and we must all fear—that the future may hold a costly arms race at the expense of economic development and social progress. They fear—and we must all fear—that the militarization of Nicaraguans is but a prelude to a widening war on Central America."

Mr Haig wished to reverse the trend toward violent change and abuses of human rights and proposed a three-point plan.

First, the organization should set up an institute for the study of democracy, named after the late Romulo Betancourt, the former democratic President of Venezuela.

Secondly, its members should act together to "create new economic opportunity" and, thirdly, "act together to strengthen the principles of both non-intervention and collective security."

Mr Haig did not specify how the countries would band together for collective security. But he did outline the proposals of President Reagan's Caribbean initiative to improve economic growth in the area.

SPACE 'KILLER' CLAIM DENIED

The United States Defence Department has denied another report that the Soviet Union has assembled and tested a killer satellite (our Foreign Staff writes).

The latest issue of *Aviation Week* identifies the killer satellite—capable of attacking other spacecraft—as Cosmos 1,267, docked with the Salyut 6 space station since June.

"From what we know of the Soviet space programme we cannot conclude that they have the system described in the *Aviation Week* article", a Defence Department spokesman said.

Why Malta banned 'Times' from its election campaign

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Dec 4

The one issue in the forthcoming Maltese elections is whether Mr Dom Mintoff will be reelected Prime Minister or replaced by Mr Eddie Fenech Adami. There is no such obvious simplicity about the reason for the banning by the Maltese Government of any representative of *The Times* in the campaign which ends on December 12.

The irrational is necessarily disconcerting. The Maltese embassy here admits to being totally unable to interpret the Government's ban, either as a decision governed by political considerations or as an issue that can only appear large to the small minded.

The realities of the contest are obscured by the Government's own concentration on eccentric details in its dealing with the world's press.

A German television team has just been expelled. I was myself earlier this year in Malta as part of an attempt to explain that the quarrel already existing between *The Times* and the Maltese Government was not a question, from our side, of great significance or of unfriendliness.

The Director of Information of the Maltese Government had complained about the contents of a comparatively brief dispatch from our Malta correspondent and had written a long letter of rebuttal to *The Times*.

At the same time he forbade the sale of *The Times* in Malta and this ban continues. The letter was not published. hat remains the formal basis for the Maltese Government's refusal to allow a representative of *he Times* to follow the electoral campaign.

This was not, however, the only issue involved. I had, as usual before visiting a foreign country, informed the Maltese embassy here of my plans and had asked them to make arrangements for me to meet the Government press authorities.

A day after this request had been made I was told by the Maltese embassy that there were complications and that I should telephone personally to the Director of Information of the Maltese Government. He told me once again that his letter had been unanswered but he added othr accusations.

He said that after my last visit to Malta, which had been in connexion with the ban on the sale of *The Times*, I had written articles from Rome which were "untruthful and critical of us".

I was surprised because the one article I had written from Rome seemed to me to be a modestly sensitive attempt to describe Mr Mintoff's outlook in the most favourable way possible. My only long conversation with him had been when he was in opposition and he then had proved a stimulating speaker.

When I pressed the Government spokesman to back up his accusation he said: "You attacked our health service". When I suggested mildly that he might have misread what I said as I had not written about the health service or confused with someone else, he added: "Whatever you have written we know that privately you speak badly of us behind our backs".

Mugabe wages policy upsets businessmen

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Dec 4

Industrialists and farming groups today said the Zimbabwe Government's latest stride towards its egalitarian goal, that of reducing wage disparity, could have a crippling effect in some sectors of the economy.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, outlined increases of 66 per cent and 23.5 per cent for two groups of the lowest paid yesterday. At the same time he announced limits on the amount that may be paid to higher wage earners and foreshadowed the introduction of price controls.

The increases, to be introduced on January 1, will raise the minimum wage for industrial and commercial workers from \$Z85 (about £65) to \$Z105, and for domestic and farm workers from \$Z30 to \$Z50.

Mr Abner Botsh, the black president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe, said the increases would have to be passed on to the consumer and could force businesses to close unless this were recognized in any future prices policy.

A spokesman for the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association said the impact of the 66 per cent increase for agricultural workers was of great concern. Tobacco is Zimbabwe's main foreign currency earner. "The body recognized the need for wage increases but cannot understand an increase of this untimely and mammoth nature", he said.

Mr James Sinclair, the president of the Commercial Farmers Union, said the increases could lead to a serious decline in agricultural production and potentially massive reduction in employment.

The proposals also appear certain to disturb urban whites who employ more than 100,000 domestic servants.

Mr Mugabe, anticipating that both farmers and domestic employers may try to get rid of their workers rather than pay the increases, said that no dismissals would be permitted.

That might be difficult to enforce and the Government appears to have gambled that both groups will be unwilling or unable to dispense with these services.

The announcement represents the Government's first public reaction following a full study of the report by the Riddell Commission on incomes, prices and conditions of service.

In dealing with both the lowest and highest paid the Government has taken more radical action than the course proposed by the Riddell Commission although the Prime Minister said that in general the commission's recommendations were in harmony with the Government's approach.

Whereas the commission suggested that those earning more than \$Z20,000 a year should receive increases restricted to the rate of inflation, the Cabinet decision ruled out any increase for this group unless there were special circumstances. At the other end, the increases are well in excess of those suggested in the report.

Mr Sinclair, a member of the commission who supported its recommendations said that the new levels "completely disregarded the Riddell proposals for phased increases over a period of three years." He had been expecting the agricultural wage to go up by about a third, he said.

Mr Roger Riddell, chairman of the commission, said that he was pleased that the Government "has accepted in general terms what we said".

Mr Mugabe said that the new figure still did not take workers up to the estimated urban poverty datum line for a family of six (\$Z128) and that he did not accept that the amount was adequate compensation for farm workers.

On the possibility of price controls being introduced, Mr Mugabe said the Government did not want to see increases in wages being nullified by sudden price rises. "It is my belief that while we have made a positive move in meeting the expectations of the lesser paid

B1 bomber plan wins Senate vote

Washington, Dec 4.—President Reagan's plan to spend \$180,000m (£100,000m) on modernizing American strategic nuclear forces over the next six years seemed certain to go ahead after two votes in the Senate last night.

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the proposal to build 100 B1 bombers, described by opponents as the most expensive weapons system ever undertaken by the United States.

By 66 votes to 28, it quashed an attempt by a group of Democrats to have the money spent instead on improving the forces' combat readiness and on conventional arms, aircraft and ships.

Earlier, the Senate conditionally endorsed the President's plans for building 100 MX missiles, the other controversial element in his nuclear arms package.

The House of Representatives has already approved the two weapons systems.

Although the Senate never seemed likely to defeat his proposals, Mr Reagan intervened personally to assure his victory.

He also wrote to the Senate before the MX missile vote saying that a defeat would undermine the American position at the talks now being held with the Soviet Union in Geneva on limiting medium range nuclear weapons in Europe.

The B1 manned bomber is to enter service in 1986, gradually replacing the aging fleet of 350 B52s.—Reuter.

□ Geneva: The Russians pledged today to do all in their power to make a success of negotiations with the United States on limiting nuclear missiles in Europe (Our Correspondent writes).

In a statement before the second plenary session of the United States-Soviet intermediate range nuclear weapons negotiations, held at the Soviet diplomatic mission, they expressed thanks for messages expressing hope that the talks will succeed.

EEC may block aid to Turkey

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Dec 4

The European Commission has taken the political initiative in deciding to recommend a block on its latest aid package for Turkey, following the decision to jail Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister.

The European Council is being advised by the Commission not to approve this £290m Fourth Financial Protocol, which has been ready for final signature since June. In doing so it has expressed its regret and concern at the four-month prison sentence confirmed on Mr Ecevit for defying the country's military rulers.

The Commission called in the Turkish Ambassador to the Community at the beginning of last month to warn him that the sentence had given rise to real doubt as to whether or not Turkey was really going through with its promised process for a return to democracy. This message was repeated personally by M Gaston Thorn, the Commission President, to the Turkish Foreign Minister on November 18.

The Commission has been particularly concerned about the democratic evolution inside Turkey in view of its application to become a full member of the Community. It continued to negotiate the aid package in the hope that democracy would be developing in parallel.

The sentence on Mr Ecevit, despite the warnings, has crushed this hope, at least for the time being, and has led the Commission to recommend blocking the aid.

The amount of aid involved is too small to have any significant financial impact on the Turkish economy, and at the Turkish Embassy to the Community today the Commission decision was seen clearly as an attempt to interfere in domestic Turkish politics.

A spokesman at the embassy said that his country felt that the decision about the aid was one which should be taken by the Council and not by the Commission, which he felt should have no say in such an affair.

He added: "Such pressure has never succeeded in the past, so I don't see why it should now".

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Ankara tells Weinberger of Soviet military threat

From Sinan Fisek, Ankara, Dec 4

Turkish Defence Ministry officials today briefed Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, on "the Soviet order of battle against Turkey", which an American defence source said was an impressive display of force and a threat to the North Atlantic alliance as a whole.

The talks between Mr Weinberger and Mr Haluk Bayulken, Turkey's Defence Minister, centred on the security of the West in general, with particular emphasis on improving defence cooperation between Turkey and the United States.

Diplomats here believed that Turkey would turn more and more to Washington after West European Nato countries halted aid to Turkey to mark their displeasure with the military rulers' method of restoring democracy.

Turkish officials today did not directly ask the United States to intercede with other allies such as West Germany, a source said, but he believed it was clear that Turkey hopes the Reagan Administration will do so.

Turkish officials expressed "a strong desire to return to a stable democracy", and the United States believed this would be achieved, "not because of outside pressures, but because it is what the Turkish nation believes it wants".

The source said the two countries have also decided to set up a high-level working group which would, among other things, speed up delivery of weapons to Turkey, and facilitate the operation of the defence and economic aid agreement.

Turkish officials told Mr Weinberger that they were ready to cooperate with the alliance as a whole for participation in a rapid deployment force in case of an outside threat to Nato.

Both sides said they hoped Mr Andrea Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, "would not put his campaign rhetoric into action" and that Athens would stand by its commitments to Nato.

Most diplomats here saw in Mr Weinberger's visit—which will be followed by a trip to Ankara on December 13 by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State—as an implicit pro-Turkish stand by the Reagan Administration in response to Mr Papandreou's threats.

Britain offers help to Seychelles

By David Cross

In a gesture of good will to President Albert René of the Seychelles, both the British and French governments have said they will help to rebuild the international airport which was damaged last week in an attempted coup by white mercenaries.

During a meeting in London yesterday Mr Robert Grandcourt, of the Seychelles Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, was told by Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, that Britain would look sympathetically at any request for help in rebuilding the airport.

Mr Luce also said that the British Government was taking urgent steps to implement a new economic aid package worth £1.5m for the Seychelles.

In Paris, President Mitterrand told Mr Maxime Ferrari, the Minister for Planning Development in the Seychelles, that France would also contribute towards the cost of repairing the airport. Mr Ferrari explained that about £1m was needed to repair what he described as the umbilical cord of his country's economy.

For the first time since last week's attempted coup, the airport was reopened yesterday to allow about 500 tourists who have been stranded to return to Europe.

The first planeload of mainly British tourists was due to arrive at Heathrow last night.

In the Seychelles, where a curfew remains in force from dusk to dawn, the authorities said they were still looking for three mercenaries who are thought to have escaped from fighting at the airport eight days ago.

Britain is still seeking consular access to two other men with British passports who are among five people captured by the Seychelles authorities.

In Washington a State Department spokesman has said that the United States is in contact with six other countries, including Britain, who signed a 1978 agreement in Bonn to cease all flights to a country which refuses to extradite or prosecute hijackers.

Britain said yesterday that it had not yet heard from Washington officially, which suggests that the Americans are in no great hurry to pursue the matter any further.

In Port Elizabeth, Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, sought to quell some of the criticism by letting it be known that his Government was considering legislation to ban members of its armed services from serving as mercenaries.

□ Mr Denis Healey, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, last night accused the South African Government of being behind the failed coup.

He also condemned Pretoria for breaking an international convention by failing to prosecute or repatriate the hijackers and said Britain should stop all flights in and out of South Africa.

Time is running out for the Ten

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, Dec 4

Time is running out for Britain to find a date for the special meeting of EEC foreign ministers to try to solve the outstanding problems of Europe's financial and agricultural policies.

The meeting would be the last opportunity for Britain, as President of the Council, to achieve the necessary breakthrough.

The central problem is that the date which most nations would favour is the one which Britain least wants. This is December 15, when all the foreign ministers from the Community would probably be able to be present. However, that day is the one immediately before Mrs Margaret Thatcher is due to report to the European Parliament in Strasbourg about the work completed by the presidency.

If there was confidence that the foreign ministers could find solutions there would be no objection to them meeting on the eve of the Strasbourg speech. Britain is not happy about taking the risk.

The alternative dates more favoured by Britain are at the beginning of the following week. These dates, however, are considered far too close to Christmas.

This would mean that the final decision would not be taken for two or three weeks and in the interval positions could change and the urgency would be lost.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Ceausescu's peace spectacular

Bucharest.—With a spectacular peace march through the centre of Bucharest which is expected to attract 500,000 Romanians in an organized demonstration, President Ceausescu will be winding up his peace campaign today (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Romania is joining the European peace movement in a big way and everything is being subordinated to it. But unlike its West European counterparts, the entire country is engaged in it, organized, drilled, and conducted by President Ceausescu.

Mr Ceausescu is to address the rally. He has also appealed to President Brezhnev to reduce and gradually remove all medium-range missiles from the European part of Russia and to President Reagan to freeze the deployment of new missiles and to renounce the neutron bomb.

Compromise on US budget cuts

Washington. — President Reagan has agreed to compromise with Republican leaders on budget cuts for fiscal year 1982. He originally wanted cuts of \$8,400m (£4,600m) but has agreed to a \$4,000m reduction, double that agreed by Congress last week in a resolution which he vetoed.

The veto deprived the Administration of the power to spend money on all but essential services resulting in a one-day shutdown of many government offices.

Trudeau thanks Thatcher

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, yesterday thanked Mrs Margaret Thatcher for the British Government's patience and forbearance while Canadian political leaders haggled over proposed changes to their constitution (our Foreign Staff writes).

During their transatlantic telephone conversation Mrs Thatcher and Mr Trudeau also discussed the timetable for British approval of the patriation of the Canadian constitution now that it has been agreed to by Canada's House of Commons. The British will also be asked to endorse a rights charter.

A first reading of what will be called the Canada Bill may be possible before the Commons at Westminster rises for the Christmas recess on December 23. If there are no major objections the Bill should be ready for signing by the Queen late February or early March.

Recount leaves Kean winner

Mr Thomas Kean, the Republican candidate, has become Governor of New Jersey by 1,677 votes. Mr James Florio his Democratic opponent conceded this week.

Mr Florio had held out demanding a computer recount of the 2.3 million votes cast, and during the four weeks since polling day had maintained offices and staff in optimistic preparation for taking over the reins of government, bearing the cost of \$40,000 (£20,000) from campaign funds.

Although 3,000 votes changed sides Mr Kean's lead remained undiminished.

Why Sir Probyn lost his job

Sir Probyn Inniss was dismissed as Governor of the Associated state of St Kitts-Nevis because the working relationship between him and the islands' government had broken down irretrievably, MPs were told.

In a Commons written reply to Dr Edmund Marshall (Lab, Goole) Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said the islands' Premier, Dr Kennedy Simmonds, had asked for his removal.

Sir Probyn, aged 45, was dismissed in November at the end of a long constitutional dispute.

Arms seized in ministry building

Rome.—An arms cache including sub-machine guns, rifles, pistols and bombs has been discovered in the Italian Ministry of Health building. A ministry guard has been arrested.

The arms were allegedly found in his flat, which is in the ministry building. Police said the weapons were hired to common criminals and right-wing extremists.

Africans press for their UN candidate

New York.—The 50-nation African group at the United Nations is making a final effort to persuade the United States to end its opposition to the candidacy of Mr Salim Ahmed Salim, the Tanzanian Foreign Minister as Secretary-General.

The group were today debating the decision made yesterday by Dr Kurt Waldheim that he would not seek reelection through balloting by the council members.

Syrian reshuffle

Damascus.—Mr Abdul-Rauf al-Kasm the Syrian Prime Minister partly reshuffled his 37-man cabinet, changing nine ministries. The existing government was formed in January, 1980.

هكذا من الأصل

El Salvador junta urged to consult guerrillas

From Our Correspondent
New York, Dec 4

A largely Western-sponsored resolution asking the Salvadorean government of President José Napoleon Duarte to initiate pre-election negotiations with the left-wing insurgents trying to overthrow him was adopted today at the committee level of the United Nations General Assembly.

The vote, with 65 in favour, 21 against and 54 abstentions, failed to give the committee the means to send a clear message to El Salvador.

The number of fencesitters gave the United States a victory of sorts because its isolation in the Western camp was not all that apparent at first glance. Washington is in the middle of a campaign supporting the Salvadorean junta while at the same time criticizing Nicaragua for its backing of the Revolutionary Front.

Most West European countries supported the resolution and by proxy opposed the United States, while Britain attempted to act as a bridge-builder and abstained.

El Salvador today said allegations in the resolution that it had committed grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms were a lie and called the resolution itself an intervention in its internal affairs.

France, Denmark, Greece, The Netherlands, Algeria, Ireland, Mexico, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Nicaragua sponsored the draft, which for the first time tied together social and political aspect in El Salvador.

SCHLEYER MURDERER GIVEN LIFE

Düsseldorf, Dec 4. — Stefan Wisniewski, a member of the Baader-Meinhof terrorist gang, was sentenced to life imprisonment today for his part in the killings in 1977 of Dr Hanns-Martin Schleyer, the industrialist, and his four escorts.

The Düsseldorf district court found Herr Wisniewski, aged 28, guilty of murder, kidnapping, attempted compulsion, and membership of a terrorist gang. He frequently interrupted the judge reading the sentence.

During the year-long trial Herr Wisniewski refused to give details about himself or to answer questions.

Solidarity warns Government of strike action

Warsaw, Dec 4. — Solidarity demanded important political concessions today as a condition for joining the Communists in a national front, and gave a warning that it would bring the nation out on strike if the authorities declared a state of emergency.

The unions demands, published after a meeting of regional chiefs, came in response to a government crackdown which brought troops and riot police into action in Warsaw on Wednesday to break a strike by cadet firemen.

The demands are subject to adoption by the union's national commission, which meets on Gdansk next week, but they spelt out for the first time Solidarity's official position on joining the Communist-sponsored national front.

The union accused the Communists of promoting a facade and called for free local elections, access to the mass media, a Solidarity version of a trade union law, a halt to reprisals against union activists, fully fledged economic reform, and union control over food and the economy as minimum conditions for national accord.

The Communist establishment has opposed most of the demands on the gronnds that they are politically unacceptable.

The Solidarity statement, published in the union's Warsaw news bulletin, *Wiadomosci Dnia*, said the union would reply with a 24-hour national strike if Parliament armed the Government with emergency powers, and would launch an immediate general strike if the authorities attempted to enforce them.

A leading Communist hardliner meanwhile called for the immediate elimination of all anti-communist activity and propaganda.

"It is necessary for a time to suspend all strikes and demonstrations and to obliterate rebellion", Mr Tadeusz Grabski, a former member of the Politburo, said

Strikes continued unabated at universities across Poland as the shut-down of the Radom engineering college, which started the wave of academic unrest, entered its fortieth day.

In a statement published in today's official press, the Government said that attempts to dislodge Communist Party cells from industry were illegal, and called on local officials to counteract them.

The statement came after a spate of incidents in which Solidarity activists had called for the expulsion of party activists from factories or had obstructed their activities. — Reuter.

Sultry Miss Turner fails to cheer up the Poles

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 4

Poles were briefly allowed to forget their economic and political crisis this week and concentrate on the gold lamé microskirt of Tina Turner, the sultry American singer of the 1960s and beyond.

All, however, did not go according to plan. The energetic Miss Turner, not showing her 40 or 50 years but showing almost everything else, appeared at Warsaw's ice hockey stadium determined that politics should be left alone and that everyone should snatch a brief moment of joy.

At first the young audience who included a group of Soviet soldiers in full dress uniform sitting at the back of the stadium, were a little baffled by Miss Turner's athletic charm, beehive hair style and precarious high heels.

The audience began to warm up, however, when it became clear that the song titles constituted a covert political message; the medly included "Help", "Shake it".

The crowning moment was in the traditional mode. Lights were dulled, the two slinky support dancers started to jump up and down and a pouting Miss Turner began a series of half sung questions.

"What do you want?" she asked the audience suggestively. The answer was unexpected. "Food", shouted the audience. "What do you need?" she repeated equally provocatively. "Dollars", shouted a voice.

With that dispiriting note the audience began to pack up its bags and return to a tranquil evening of university sit ins, farmers' strikes, street protests and power cuts.



45 killed in tower panic

Forty-five people were killed yesterday inside one of India's great monuments, the 800-year-old Qutab Minar tower (above) on the outskirts of Delhi. (Trevor Fishlock writes from Delhi).

They were trampled in a stampede on the worn and slippery spiral staircase. According to reports there was panic among the estimated 400 people in the tower when the lights went out.

Many of the dead and injured were schoolchildren and college students. Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, went to the scene of the disaster and later visited injured people in hospital.

The disaster might have been even worse. The Qutab Minar always attracts crowds, especially on Fridays, and hundreds were queueing to get in.

The tower is 237ft high and has 378 steps. It was started in the twelfth century and completed in the fourteenth.

Reagan red carpet for Jonas Savimbi

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington, Dec 4

When Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Angolan insurgent leader, visited Washington two years ago, the Carter Administration refused him access to senior officials. This week he has been accorded red-carpet treatment by President Reagan.

Yesterday Dr Savimbi, who heads the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) which is fighting a bush war against the left-wing Government in Luanda, had talks with Mr Walter Stoessel, Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs, and Dr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary for African Affairs.

In the absence of Mr Alexander Haig, The Secretary of State, and his deputy, Mr William Clark, both of whom are abroad, Mr Stoessel is the most senior official in the State Department, Dr Savimbi is also seeing a number of other senior officials and other people of influence in Washington.

A State Department spokesman, emphasizing that Dr Savimbi's visit was a private one, said that the United Sates considered Unita to be a legitimate political force in Angola which had to be taken into account. The Administration was taking advantage of his visit to Washington to exchange views.

The high-level reception accorded to Dr Savimbi will not be welcomed by the Angolan Government, which has no formal diplomatic relations with the United States. Angola claims that Unita insurgents are being backed by South Africa, and that the presence of 12,000 Cuban troops in Angola is necessary to combat this joint Unita-South African threat.

☐ Lisbon: Angola says the Savimbi visit represents interference by the Reagan Administration in its internal affairs, according to reports reaching Lisbon (AP reports).

A dispatch from the Angolan news agency Angop, which normally echoes the policies of the ruling NPLA party, also cited Associated Press and United Press International reports as quoting Dr Savimbi as saying his visit to New York was undertaken in search of more military aid.

Dr Savimbi's visit to the United States confirmed "the policy of interference in the internal affairs of Angola

The day our correspondent became a 'convict'

Ensnared in Ciskei's web of eager informers

From Michael Hornsby, Zwelitsha, Ciskei, Dec 4

Major General Charles Sebe, of the intelligence service of the newly "independent" Ciskei homeland and brother of its ruler, Chief Lennox Sebe, was jovial as he ushered us into his office at security headquarters in the township of Zwelitsha.

"Well, well, so you're the two convicts. How many years shall we give you?", the general chuckled from behind dark glasses. "Of course, it was all a mishap. You must forgive my boys. They have been working very hard recently."

General Sebe's "boys" are an unpleasantly ubiquitous feature of life in Ciskei, the fourth of South Africa's black tribal reserves to accept the poisoned chalice of independence from Pretoria's hand, and take its place in the constitutional structure of apartheid.

The previous day, two carloads of his "boys" had forced myself and an American colleague, Miss Julie Frederikse of National Public Radio, off the road, and then detained us for more than an hour until a telephone call to General Sebe secured our release.

We had been visiting Potsdam, one of the squalid hidden-away resettlement camps of corrugated tin and wood shacks in which some 150,000 Xhosa-speaking Africans have been dumped over the past 10 years as part of Pretoria's policy of removing as many blacks as possible from "white" areas.

While there we were accosted by a bowing and scraping local headman who was busy shepherding women and children — there are few men in Ciskei since they all have to go outside its borders to find work — into two buses for a "spontaneous" visit to the independence celebrations in the new stadium further north.

We did not know it at the time, but we had already been ensnared in what General Sebe later proudly called "my spider's webb" of informers. Emerging from the dusty track leading back to the main road through Mdantsane, Ciskei's biggest township, we were headed off by two police cars with flashing lights.

Proferred press cards were to no avail. Our presence was unauthorised, a plain clothed official with the police insisted. His orders were to take us to headquarters at Zwelitsha, 20 miles away. Under police escort, with the surly plain clothes man in the back seat, we set off.

A black student, whose mother lived in Potsdam and to whom, we had given a lift from East London, was by now badly frightened. Clearly fearing the worst, he slipped me a piece of paper on which he had hurriedly scribbled the address of relatives in Mdantsane.

At headquarters, Colonel Makuzeni, the deputy head of intelligence, was not amused. Cradling a Sten gun in the crook of one arm, he said:"You were invited here to report on the independence celebrations. Going round the country asking people's opinions has got nothing to do with independence.

In fact, We have spoken too few people. Most were too cowed and frightened to talk, shaking their heads mutely and walking quickly away. One primary schoolteacher, glancing nervously from side to side, tactfully ventured a "wait-and-see" verdict on the effects of independence. Otherwise, there was a total lack of interest, let alone enthusiasm.

For a time, it seemed that Colonel Makuzeni wanted to keep our black friend, and let us go. But eventually he put a call through to Major General Sebe himself. After some minutes of talk in Xhosa, the Colonel, suddenly all smiles, handed me the telephone, and the Generals voice came booming down the line.

It was all a mistake, he insisted. Of course, the three of us were free to go.

FARE CUTS TROUBLE AIRLINES

By Our Transport Correspondent

America's controversial free market policy for air fares, which has led to cut-throat competition and big fare cuts on both domestic and international routes, may have to be changed, Mr Ed Meyer, president of Trans World Airlines said in London today.

He said the policy was clearly wrong on international routes because it meant exporting United States domestic regulations to countries and governments which simply "don't share our fervour for a free market".

Domestically, it had still to be shown if the policy, launched by President Carter and retained by President Reagan, was in the long-term interests of the consumer, Mr Meyer said.

In order to work it would have to produce higher fares

France invalidates four elections

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Dec 4

M Alain Peyrefitte, former Minister of Justice in the Barre Government, will be a candidate for the National Assembly in a forthcoming by-election at Provins, east of Paris. The by-election is caused by the decision of the Constitutional Council to invalide the poll along with three others held in the general election, because of irregularities.

On June 21, M Peyrefitte lost to a Socialist by 186 votes out of nearly 60,000 the seat he had held uninterruptedly since 1958. Of the four elections invalidated, two in the provinces were won by Socialists, one in Paris by a left-wing Gaullist, backed by the Socialists, and one by a veteran Gaullist.

These by-elections will be held before the cantonal elections in March, which the left is expected to win. It will benefit from the redrawing of constituency boundaries in the last three months and from the regional reform which transfers effective power, and therefore local subsidies, from the prefects to the elected head of departmental assemblies.

The by-elections, therefore, will be a more accurate test of the real mood of public opinion after nearly nine months of Socialist Government, even though French voters do not like their verdict to be called into question.

Some leaders of the Opposition consider that the four by-elections could mark the beginning of what most of them agree will be its slow reconquest of power, and a pointer for the municipal elections of 1983. They hope that history will repeat itself.

The way out of make-believe land for Labour's Muppets

Raymond Fletcher MP, former Tribunite and close associate of Mr Tony Benn, faces reselection in his Ilkeston constituency tonight. Amid the uncertainty about his own future, he explains his fears for the future of the Labour Party.

Today's politicians remind me of the Muppet show. The political Muppets may not always be grotesque and they are rarely funny but they *are* puppets. Their comments and gestures are predictable. And they seem to inhabit a strange world in which the voter is assumed to check the feasibility of "policies" (ah, blessed word), assess the exactly desirable amount of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement and go into abstruse tactical calculations about the effect of his vote on the state of the nation before entering the polling station to cast it.

Nobody could be a political Muppet, of course, unless he had programmed these assumptions into his public self. All the Prime Minister's men must comfort her, themselves and their party with the reminder that nearly 23,000 Crosby voters still thought that Monetarism and Margaret were both Good Things.

Labour Muppetry has acquired a strange vocabulary of its own which explains a good deal about the Labour Party but little about anything else. "The Media", for example, has replaced "Capitalism" in the party's dictionary of abuse. It is difficult to see why.

Practically every documentary programme I see chronicles the villainies of former CIA agents in Libya; Mafia-controlled jerry building operations in southern Italy or the alleged lethal effects of some of the products of Swiss drug companies. As for drama, probably more influential than documentaries, Mr Trevor Griffiths and his brilliantly subversive colleagues use the small screen (and quite rightly) as a private theatre.

The popular press is certainly pretty ghastly, but the proper question to ask about *The Sun* is not whether it has created a third political party. It is: *why* is it popular? And if it does have the power to seduce millions of working class voters from their "natural" allegiance to Labour, what kind of allegiance was it in the first place and what kind of people were those who gave it?

There was a time when the working class acted collectively and had predominantly collective aspirations. Its members accepted public ownership because this was linked with such desirable ends as the public provision of health care and improved education and housing. In the bleaker segments of the economy, nationalization may have been regarded as a long delayed punishment, as in the mines. But elsewhere it was regarded as a tidying-up, generating no passion among the workers and little determined resistance from the capitalists.

The idea of the worker as a born socialist, therefore, dissolves as soon as it is examined in detail and in depth, as it has been in recent years. It is true that workers will take vigorous collective action to restore what such action has gained them in the past. The Government has had to change its mind about slicing away more local authority services. It would almost certainly be in trouble if the National Health Service were to be savaged.

Yet many workers who would, so to speak, be driven collective by the Government's obsession with balance sheets, voted as individuals for that same government in 1979. The car workers of Dagenham and the West Midlands were more concerned with differentials than with collectivism at that time, and workers generally even now are more concerned with personal taxation than with politics as such.

This rise of individualism among workers is not an evenly spread phenomenon. We see different political swings, for and against the Labour Party, in different regions. There have even been different swings between one constituency and its immediate neighbour. History is not a mighty stream. It has its rivulets, pools and waterfalls.

The electoral results of this process of individualization, however, need not be guessed at: they can be counted. Since 1951, Labour's high tide, the party's support has dropped — except in the single year of 1966. Only a political Muppet would find a comforting explanation for this.

Not even he, however, would find much comfort in the chilling statistics that reveal a continued drop in Labour support when the party is in opposition. When the party that is against things as they are — and things as they are now are somewhat gruesome — cannot harness the inevitable indignation, then something is seriously wrong.

It cannot be given a name. Mr Tony Benn undoubtedly sends shivers down many spines, by no means all of them upper-class ones. What he actually advocates, however, is not markedly different from the policies he took into the Department of Industry in 1974. His contest with Mr Denis Healey for the deputy leadership (a non-position if ever there was one) has merely created a dual leadership, with Mr Michael Foot in Parliament and Mr Benn in the country, familiar in Continental socialist parties.

Internal struggles do immobilize a party. Yet if there were a rising tide of indignation against the Government and the social system it preserves, protects and defends, if there were a rebirth of collectivism of almost volcanic strength among the workers, and if there were a national will to regenerate the economy, replenish the social services with funds and really make life impossible for the most unpopular government in decades — such a political tide would simply drown the squabblers.

No such movement can be discerned on any political seismograph. This nation is sinking into an embittered torpor and though the squeezes get tighter every time, the economic resurgence they are supposed to bring about obstinately refuses to show itself.

One must be old-fashioned and use language tainted by past ill usage. Without the re-emergence of a national will both to survive and to succeed, no policies will save us because no policies will work. The Labour Party has a surfeit of policies, but until it puts most of them in the shredder and starts again, beginning with an examination of what its natural supporters really want, as distinct from what half-baked pamphleteers tell us they want, the Labour Party will gradually disappear from the political scene.

Summer puts in an hour's overtime

Stands the Lutyens clock at ten to four?
Does Greenwich Time apply no more?

As in Grantchester, there's honey still for tea in the new Covent Garden. (You can always buy a pot at Culpeper's, if you can't get any in one of the innumerable cafés.)

But Rupert Brooke would find it harder than at Grantchester to get a rhyme. The church clock stands at ten to *four*. The big blue and gold clock under the pediment of Inigo Jones's barn-like St Paul's (where Eliza Doolittle sat with her flowers) has still not been changed from British Summer Time, which officially ended on Sunday, October 26.

It's the same when you walk up into Covent Garden from the Strand. A big, black, confident-looking clock — one of the lesser-known artefacts of Edwin Lutyens — juts out above the Southampton Street post office, near where George Newnes used to publish his illustrated instalments of Sherlock Holmes. But in Britain today not even the post offices run on time. Over the river, at the Hayward Gallery, the Lutyens exhibition commemorates the high noon of empire. But here in Southampton Street, it is one o'clock high.

Public clocks are one of the main monuments of what we've come to think of as the Protestant Ethic: the day divided up into separate bits, each with their different tasks, like a Ford assembly line. I'm someone who doesn't much like wearing a wristwatch, and till quite recently that Protestant inheritance worked well enough for me to manage without. But not any longer. It is as bad as being without a watch of your own in Italy or Spain. Clocks are stopped; or are wrong; or are (like that Covent Garden crazy pair) in the wrong time-zone for large stretches of the year.

To call it the Protestant Ethic is a libel on all those aggressively capitalist early Lombard bankers. And the precise chopping-up of the time of day was an invention of the Benedictine Order. "Through its regularity and efficiency," Lewis Mumford wrote in *The Myth of the Machine*, "the monastery laid a groundwork for both capitalist organization and further mechanization." From the cloister, "this time-keeping habit spread back to the marketplace . . . so that, from the fourteenth century on, a whole town would time its activities by the ringing of the tower clock's bells."

Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell notoriously gave capitalism its biggest boost in England by nationalizing the monasteries' wealth and giving their lands to royal trusties. and it became the fortieth Article of the Established Church that you should be able to tell the time by it. The clock had come out of the cloister.

For T. S. Eliot in 1922, a church clock had become the very embodiment of the city; or, more precisely, the City:

A crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many,
I had not thought death had undone so many . . .
Flowed up the hill and down King William Street,
To where Saint Mary Woolnoth kept the hours
With a dead sound on the final stroke of nine.

Even within that dry New England soul, perhaps, rebellion against the rule of the clocks was beginning to stir. At precisely the same moment as *The Wasteland* was published, Lutyens was beginning to play such childish games as designing Queen Mary's dolls' houses. No doubt it already made more sense than commemorating the Raj in New Delhi. The clockwork that built the empire was already beginning to whirr and clank erratically.

Was it Edward Heath, with his three-day week, who finally scuppered the Englishman's sense of time? Heath, despite his latter-day attempt to be a saint of moderation, was a much more revolutionary figure than Mrs T. To create a week of three days was something the rationalist ideologues of the French Revolution would have admired — though, in the event, it lasted for even less time than their own stab at a "decimal" ten-day week.

But even when a revolution fails, things are never quite the same again. And certainly, somewhere in the 1970s, time got out of joint in this country. It started not to *matter* that a clock showed the wrong time.

The American anthropologist, Edward T. Hall, has drawn a distinction between what he calls "monochronic" and "polychronic" peoples. The *monochronic* puts time into compartments: "they schedule one thing at a time and become disoriented if they have to do too many things at once". The *polychronic* "tend to keep several operations going at once, like jugglers". Professor Hall paints a line between north and south.

"Monochronic northern Europeans, for example, find the constant interruptions of polychronic southern Europeans almost unbearable, because it seems that nothing ever gets done. Since order is *not* important to the southern Europeans, the customer with the most push gets served first, even though he may have been the last to enter".

But he wrote that 15 years ago; he can't have been in line for a London bus recently. The classic English queue has become a cluster. The Thames is now a Mediterranean estuary.

England, in fact, is becoming a Venice. The art is good (or, at least, the television is). It's a very pleasant place to be. We have our Commons and Cabinet, as the Venetian Republic had its Council of Ten. The marketplace of Covent Garden has abandoned its old semi-industrial base. (The clocks ran true when fruit and veg lorries thundered in overnight.) It is now London's St Mark's Square: a polychronic miscellany of competing activities.

Once (like Venice) did we hold the gorgeous East in fee. But Britannia is now into self-awareness, not expansion. She's slimmed down so much she will soon have an hour-glass figure. The clock is unwound; and the sands perhaps are running out . . .

Paul Barker

The author is editor, New Society.

New Saladins keeping Khomeini at bay

Saladin, 800 years ago, saw no need to devote his tremendous energies to the protection of his Kurdish kinsfolk. So secure were they in their mountainous fastness of a homeland to the south of the lakes of Van and Urmia that he dared to call forth some of their best soldiers to Egypt and Syria to command his armies. But the coming of radio, television and the helicopter gunship has transformed the situation for the people whom Alexander, Genghiz Khan and Tamberlaine did not impress. For the first time in 3,000 years their survival is in danger.

The Kurdish homeland straddles the borders of Iran, Iraq and Turkey, and it is in Iran that the most important battle is being fought. The old Kurdistan Democratic Party of 1946, which had remained dormant in the years of the Shah's ascendancy, sprang into action in 1978 with the weakening of his grip over Iran and quickly took over the role of government in two of the country's four Kurdish provinces. It now has about 11,000 full-time guerrillas, the Peshmergah, and an additional 30,000 militias. It is the only armed force in Iran that has been able to keep a region of the country free from the control of Ayatollah Khomeini's forces over the past three years.

The KDP has suffered some setbacks during the past year. It has had to vacate the towns to prevent heavy damage being inflicted on them by the Iranian army's heavy guns, and over the past two months, it has had to withdraw its forces from the villages west of Lake Urmiah in the face of an army attack.

The KDP has now been able to reorganize its forces and start an offensive again. Last month it raided the headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards in the towns of Sanandaj, Piranshahr and Bukan. More than 100 guards were killed in Bukan alone, according to Dr Saeed Badal, a member of the party's central committee.

Sannar Mahmadi, a chieftain of the Shekak tribe, decided to revive the days of the war lords. He recently killed Rahman Karimi, a Government delegate and a prominent Kurdish member of Iran's Communist Party, together with more than 50 Revolutionary Guards.

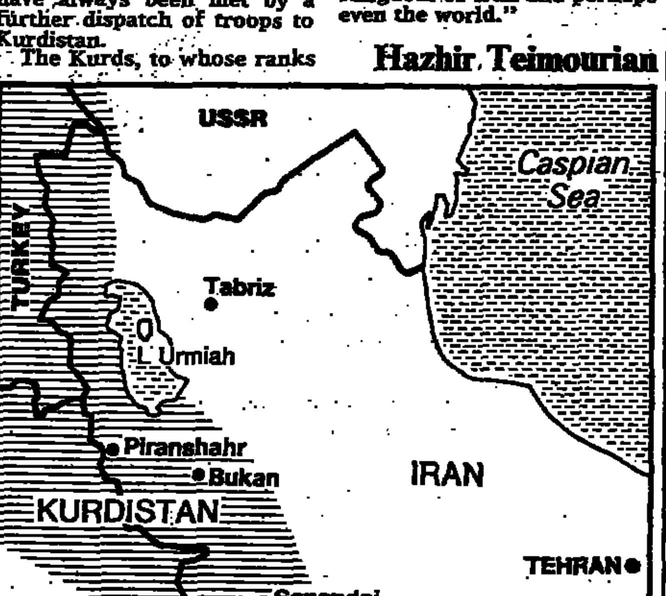
The main leader of the present Kurdish revolt in Iran, Dr Abdorahman Kassemlou, is a former lecturer at the Sorbonne and a moderate. His sole demand has been a modest devolution of power from Tehran to an elected provincial assembly in Kurdistan, leaving defence, foreign policy and economic planning firmly in the hands of the central Government. But he does not share Ayatollah Khomeini's vision of an Islamic universe and his offers of negotiation have always been met by a further dispatch of troops to Kurdistan.

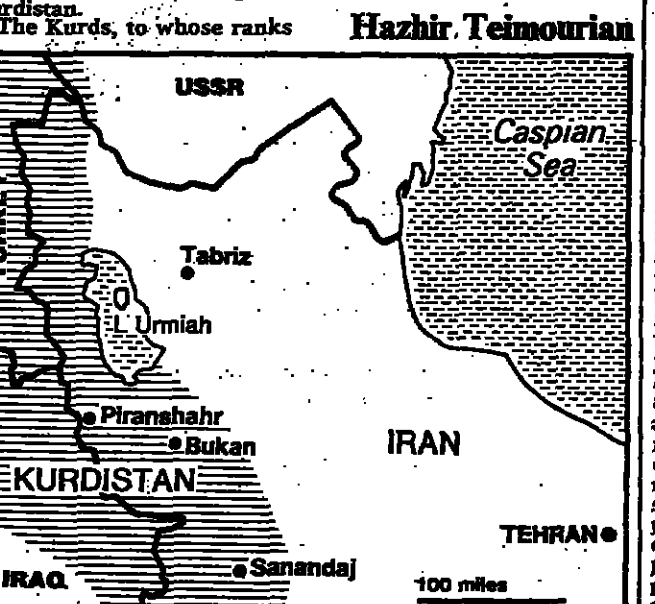
The Kurds, to whose ranks this writer must declare he has the honour — and the misfortune! — of belonging, are variously estimated to number between twelve and eighteen million.

It seems, however, that numbers are no longer growing, not only beccause of the high rates of mortality that result from poverty in a harsh climate, but also because of recurrent rebellion, enforced migrations out of our homeland and the continued shrinking of the Kurdish country through assimilation at its borders.

As in the past, fratricide also continues to play a part in keeping our population down. Sharaf-e-Din, the Kurdish Prince of Bitlis, anticipated Malthus in his *History of Kurdistan in 1596*: "By the grace of God, so fertile are the Kurds that were it not for the frequent occurrence of internal feuds among them, famine would come to hold sway over the Kingdom of Iran and perhaps even the world."

Hazhir Teimourian





Paul Theroux on how he kicked the habit



Paul Theroux and pipes of the past: 'it now seems as if there are three or four more hours in the day'.

Now that my puffing days are over

Without a doubt, the worst side-effect of giving up smoking is talking about it. Listeners fidget, cough and change their seats, their eyes become glazed, and soon the room begins to empty as — boasting of his broken habit — the non-smoker is in full cry. Anyone who has just given up qualifies as a licensed bore; and talking about it causes more misery and can clear a room faster than 10 Burmese cheroots.

But it helps to talk about it. Talking about giving up is a form of smoking. It is also a ritual of grieving, because an aspect of you — You-the-Smoker (as vivid as You-the-Jogger) — has departed forever. Unless you have smoked it is impossible to know the pleasure of it. That is an essential fact: smoking is fun! But it is also, unfortunately, fatal. It has that in common with other vices. There is a vicious justice in the deadliest sins: they combine pleasure with its penalty.

If smoking was completely harmful and insulting to the senses it would be easy to give up. But consider the smell of raw tobacco; it is as sweet an aroma as that of rained-on grass and fresh oranges and Chinese tea and chocolate and coffee beans and an infant's milky breath. And the advantages of smoking are enormous. For one thing, the smoke itself is obnoxious only to bystanders — inhaling it deeply is much more satisfactory than sniffing it or breathing it.

I smoked for 20 years. For the first decade I smoked a pack of cigarettes a day; for the second decade I smoked pipes — about a quarter of a pound of tobacco a week — and I inhaled the pipe smoke. It was not until I gave up that I noticed how it had affected me. Smoking helped my digestion, it soothed me — seeming to bring down my pulse-rate — and it aided my concentration. It is possible that these were illusions, but the fact is that I felt calmer and worked more attentively when I smoked; and I was more efficient.

The motions associated with pipe-smoking are elaborate and consoling and silly looking. It is a fussy little business you transact on your lap and requires a fair amount of dexterity. For the shy person, or the person who has trouble thinking on his feet, it is a godsend. "He filled his pipe meditatively, then struck a match and, puffing slowly, savouring it, he fixed his eyes on me and . . ." — this is really just another way of describing a man in a quandary: he doesn't have an answer ready, and so he pretends to suck it out of his pipe. The pipe smoker is seldom a quick thinker; he needs his prop, and he may use his pipe-stem in a mock-hostile way, jabbing at you and saying, "Define your terms!"

The smoker, because of the smoke, often looks reassured, independent, self-absorbed. Smoking gives poise: surely this matters in a manic world? The smoker's hands are always busy, inspiring confidence. And what is more dramatic than the smoker's decisive exhalations, the plumes of vapour — a kind of cautioning dragon's breath — that accompany a negative?

Smokers frequently exhale smoke instead of saying no; and a sharp intake of smoke usually means yes. If there is such a book as *The Sociology of Smoking* I would love to read it. Has anyone in a movie ever said, "May I light your cigarette?" and not intended it to have a sexual undertone?

And there is the relationship between smoking and time. This can partly be explained in terms of the way smoking burns up surplus energy. It is an alternative to action; and it is constructive, because it aids thought by fixing one's concentration. It may be a rudimentary form of yoga, since smokers' breathing is rhythmical and conducive to postures of repose. Most of all, it is a way of dealing with time.

I stopped smoking and immediately became aware of more hours in the day. Time passed slowly, and there was more of it. This strange excess of time can make one self-concious. That naked, awkward feeling of being unable to think in a measured way provokes a person to light up.

Yet the first regret I had on realizing this was how much time I had wasted by wilfully dulling my mind. It is more than the physical feeling of numbness — the smoker's trance — it is the smoker's routine, the time involved in the repetition of gestures, again and again, several times an hour for more than half a lifetime. One of the sorrows of the person who has stopped smoking comes with the realization that all this time has gone up in smoke.

It is no exaggeration for me to say that it now seems as if there are three or four hours more in the day. And I am more active (smoking is, inevitably, a habit of the armchair), so I sleep more soundly at night. It amazes me to think that for 20 years, at almost precisely five o'clock in the afternoon, I developed a splitting headache. When I stopped smoking, the headaches stopped. I sometimes had hangovers, but I now see that it was smoking that gave me that hideous *morning-after* feeling; it was not alcohol. And in the morning my tongue no longer feels like a dead mouse.

I had never considered giving up smoking until one day I had a bad case of bronchitis. I kept on smoking. The bronchitis grew worse. And then I felt as if I had poisoned myself. I imagined that I had become ashen-faced, my blood dark as smoke. My eyes stung, my tongue burned, my lungs were blighted — I could hardly breathe. I felt strangled as well as poisoned. After that it was easy to stop. And, when I experimented with a pipe-full, I could not continue without feeling violently ill. Perhaps this is called aversion therapy? It certainly worked with me, and I recommend it to anyone who finds it hard to give up.

My advice would be: don't cut down, don't taper off; but, rather, smoke more than you ever have, one after another, as many as you can — eat them, sicken yourself on them. It is possible that after a week of this you will never want to look at another cigarette or pipe.

That was the case with me. For the first month I had to leave a room in which people were smoking. The smoke disgusted me, and I found the habit so offensive I had an insane longing to lecture strangers on its evils — that born-again impulse that is such a dangerous side-effect.

Later, I found it to be an encouragement to watch other people smoke. Smokers began to look foolish, over-practised, like ham actors pathetically posturing. Watching people smoke, examining all those gestures and winces and gasps, ought to reinforce the desire not to smoke. Although smokers themselves may have a feeling of poise and well-being, they seldom, to the onlooker, seem anything but weak and addicted. The activity of smoking always looks desperate, pointless and vaguely corrosive. It is like watching a drunkard drinking: you feel a mixture of disgust, pity, sorrow, loathing and contempt; you want to help; and most of all you feel the opposite of temptation. Is there a more pathetic sight than that of a smoker gagging convulsively on his cigarette cough?

It takes a kind of hoggish self-love to swear off smoking; and only smugness can keep away the temptation to resume. That sense of satisfaction was summed up in a lovely phrase long ago by the novelist William Styron in an interview. He had recently given up smoking — how did he feel? "I feel," he said, "a certain fatness of soul." Pride is horrible, but it is preferable to the physical torments associated with smoking; and it must be said that a smoker's miseries outweigh his pleasures, though it is very hard to prove this without an autopsy.

Geoffrey Smith

Can the Social Democrats pass the town hall test?

The Social Democrats have captured their first local authority. Perhaps they might have hoped for a better start than the conversion of Islington borough council. It may not give quite the right impression for a council that has been known so well and loved so little suddenly to be revealed as the face of Social Democracy in office. Quite an exercise of imagination is required to see Islington as a beacon of political hope rather than as a warning of what Labour-entrenched power can do to local government.

But the impression created by one council may soon be forgotten as the Social Democratic and Liberal tide sweeps over a host of local authorities. Perhaps that might be pitching it a bit high simply because it is not all authorities whose control will be at stake in next May's elections. These will concern only the London boroughs, the districts and the Scottish regions; and in some of the metropolitan and all the non-metropolitan districts only one third of the councillors come up for election next year.

That should nonetheless leave plenty of scope for the alliance to seize some of the commanding heights of British local government. On present trends they will do so. Within six months they could be running Birmingham and Manchester as well as a number of the other eight metropolitan districts where all the members will be elected in 1982, most of the London boroughs and perhaps some of the Scottish regions as well.

So, well before the next general election the capacity of the Social Democrats and Liberals to fight a series of joint campaigns up and down the country, and even to run an administration together, will have been put to the test. It will be in the town halls of Britain, rather than in the glamour of Westminster and Whitehall, that the alliance will first have to show that it is capable of governing.

This may be bad luck. Local authorities are likely to be operating in extremely difficult conditions next year, caught between Mr Heseltine and their own ratepayers, and the ability of numerous unknown councillors to keep out of trouble locally will be no indication of the alliance's capacity to deliver nationally. But there is no way that the test can be avoided. They must win the seats to maintain momentum, and having won the seats they must show that they are credible in office.

The alliance is on the whole working remarkably well in preparing for the local elections. It was agreed last summer by Mr David Steel and Mr William Rodgers as leaders of their respective negotiating teams that they could not intervene from the centre to help to divide up the seats between their two parties. Whereas there is an elaborate process for determining which of them shall contest each parliamentary constituency, for the local elections everything was to be left to local initiative.

That was wise, because the alternative would have been dreadfully bureaucratic. It was also a recognition of reality, because the local parties on both sides would not have been prepared to put up with such interference for local elections. Nor has it proved to be needed. They have galloped into cooperative agreements with a speed and enthusiasm that has sometimes taken their superiors aback.

In Scotland, Birmingham and Liverpool agreements have been concluded. They have been worked out in large parts of London and in Manchester the local parties are about two thirds of the way there. There have been some difficulties. In Chelmsford there is as yet no meeting of minds. In Sheffield minds have met but are in some danger of being forced apart again. The local parties agreed, but on terms that the regional Social Democrats considered excessively generous to the Liberals.

A certain generosity to the Liberals is likely to be evident over the country taken as a whole because they are the more established in local government and should find it easier to field teams of competent and experienced candidates. But even in their case a good deal of work needs to be done to prepare candidates who may be experienced as councillors for the more daunting task of actually running an authority.

For the Social Democrats there is the more serious challenge of finding enough candidates who are experienced in local government at all. Some of those who have moved over from Labour have excellent credentials. Not only do they know what the inside of a town hall looks like, but they have imaginative ideas which they should find it easier to put into effect now that they are free of the incubus of Labour's left wing.

There are other converts, schooled in the ways of Labour local government, who bring a chill to the hearts of their new colleagues. But the SDP is alive to the danger of being represented by too many former Labour council hacks.

It is the sheer inexperience of many of their candidates that is likely to prove the graver risk for the Social Democrats. They are a party that is by its nature more attuned to national than to local government. It grew from the top down.

Many active SDP members are people of capacity in their own walks of life. But a high proportion of them have no previous experience of political life and are in any case fully occupied in their own careers. They did not join the Social Democrats because they wished to be active in local government, and if they now felt inclined to be, it is doubtful if many of them could spare the time to serve on a council, much less to run it.

The party has established a panel from whom parliamentary candidates will be chosen. The choice is made by the local party, but a degree of central control over the suitability of candidates can be exercised by vetting those who go on the panel. This procedure would be both impossible and unacceptable for local elections. A bit may be done by the party centrally to make up for local inexperience by holding weekend schools in the spring for candidates and agents. But essentially the Social Democrats will be forced to put their trust in local judgment.

This will apply to policies as well as personalities. Will SDP candidates — and, after the election, councils under alliance control — concentrate on holding down the rates or on preserving programmes in face of the pressure for cuts? There will probably be many variations in different parts of the country. To some extent such variations may be taken for granted. There will be differences between Conservative councils and, still more, between Labour councils. Some Labour councils may get themselves into an absurd position on this issue. The executive committee of the London Labour Party is supporting a proposal that local authorities should refuse to make budgets implementing the cuts. Others have more extreme suggestions.

The danger for the Social Democrats is different. It is not that they will be extreme. It is that, by going off in different directions they may reinforce the impression of a party without an identity.



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HOW TO KEEP AN ALLY

It was no doubt a coincidence, but an unfortunate one, that Mr Caspar Weinberger arrived in Ankara on the same day that Mr Bülent Ecevit, the former Turkish prime minister, began serving his four-month prison sentence. It has in any case served to highlight the difference in attitudes to current developments in Turkey between the United States and Western Europe. While Mr Weinberger is in Ankara discussing closer defence ties between Turkey and the United States, and President Reagan has asked Congress for substantially increased aid to Turkey in 1982, the European Commission has withdrawn its recommendation for a £290m aid package that has been awaiting signature since June, and both the Danish and West German governments have indicated their intention of witholding their contributions to the $973m package pledged through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. More symbolically, it now seems increasingly likely that Turkey will be expelled from the *Council of Europe* early next year.

The difference is uncomfortably reminiscent of the one which arose over the Greek dictatorship between 1967 and 1974, when the colonels simultaneously languished in the European doghouse and basked in the favour of the Johnson and Nixon administrations. That was also the period when the European Community was insisting on the need for democracy in Spain and Portugal, while the United States was condoning if not actively supporting dictatorship in Latin America.

In the mid 1970s many Americans recognized that this had been a short-sighted as well as unethical policy, and under President Carter a determined effort was made to re-establish America's reputation as the worldwide promoter of democracy and human rights. Under Mr Reagan that effort has not been sustained.

The Greeks are still showing the symptoms of an acute anti-Americanism, acquired largely as a result of their experiences in 1967-74. It would be sad indeed, and dangerous, if the Turks, particularly those liberal-minded sections of the Turkish community that Mr Ecevit represents, were to be infected with the same disease.

Against that argument the Turkish military regime and its American supporters can reasonably plead that the Greek and Turkish cases are not really comparable. The Greek coup of 1967 was carried out by a clique of ambitious and fanatical officers to prevent an election in which a very moderate left-wing party had every prospect of assuming power quite peacefully. The Turkish coup of 1980 was undertaken by the senior commanders of the armed forces to save the country from endemic terrorism at a time when its elected political leaders had manifestly failed to overcome partisan squabbles and measure up to the gravity of the crisis. The coup was widely welcomed by the population and its necessity was more or less acknowledged by the political leaders themselves. It is generally admitted that the military regime has done a good job in greatly reducing the level of political violence and in providing the necessary stability for at least a partial economic recovery.

For all those reasons Europeans as well as Americans were initially willing to give the new regime the benefit of the doubt. But more searching doubts are justified now that fifty-two prominent Turkish trade unionists are to go on trial, facing possible death sentences, on December 24 — a date surely chosen deliberately to ensure the minimum of publicity in Christian countries; now that newspapers are being closed, and journalists arrested, for purely verbal criticisms of the regime expressed in quite uninflammatory language; now that all political parties *have* been *permanently* dissolved, their property put up for sale and all former politicians banned from standing in future elections.

Suppression of terrorism is certainly vital, and sweeping measures for a short time can certainly be justified. But it is most unlikely that violence can be permanently suppressed by the systematic repression of criticism, by the exclusion from politics of all those for whom in the past people have actually been willing to vote or by the entrusting of constituent powers to a hand-picked assembly of conservative bureaucrats.

Turkey's very strategic importance makes it vital that its people, not just its military leaders, remain firm friends of the West. Uncritical support for the present regime may not be the best way to ensure that.

NO ARTS, NO LETTERS, NO SOCIETY

The Government has wasted no time in making public its list of allocations to the arts in the coming year, after the lurid warnings issued this week by *the directors of the* British Museum, the Victoria and Albert and the Tate. How far the latter influenced the former, and whether of not Mr Christopher Price, MP, was being teasingly provocative in asking the directors what would be the effects of a three-year freeze in grant which was never on the cards, may be allowed to pass into obscurity in the general rejoicing and relief among those concerned with the arts.

In present circumstances, the allocation is a reasonable one, and it should cause none of the predicted devastation — not, at least, unless the rise in relevant public sector salaries runs beyond the percentage allowed for (a matter largely out of the control of the museums and galleries themselves). For the Arts Council, charged with distributing funds to the live and performing arts, the level of grant should avert the necessity for another culling of its own brood comparable to that of a year ago. In the summer the Council was reported to be preparing plans for a possible frozen grant this year, which would have caused violent disruption where a measure of stability in real terms from year to year is important.

This year has been an unhappy one for the Arts Council, with a succession of squabbles, some consequent on the great cull, some indicative of poor communi*cations* within the Council's own structure. It was not wrong last year to discard organisations that no longer deserved support, though particular decisions, and their suddenness were questionable. Some victims which seemed hard done by have gained alternative sponsorship, as the Council no doubt calculated. The Old Vic company did not, and the long closure of that theatre (in spite of some hopes of better news shortly) does not make the decision to abandon it look any wiser than it did at the time.

Taken all round, yesterday's announcement represents a cut in real spending of about two per cent. The arts cannot claim a complete exemption from the general need to economize. Different kinds of enterprise face different risks, but almost all, from galleries to orchestras are handicapped by being unavoidably costly in manpower: manning economies are hard to come by in the arts. If times grow harder, it is possible to envisage museums having to close an additional day each week. Unwelcome as it would be to have their assets locked away when they should be on view, that would be preferable either to entry charges or to partial closure, which is acutely frustrating to visitors who find the very rooms they want inaccessible.

In the theatre, there has been a healthy symbiosis apparent this year in London, with many successful productions — a dozen at a time sometimes — transferring from state companies to commercial houses, to the benefit of both. But the recent threat to replace the Fortune Theatre with an office block incorporating a theatre even more diminutive than the present one is a reminder of the special dangers theatres face, even thriving ones, whenever property values are high.

A high level of public subsidy in the arts remains necessary *today*, as *it* has been ever since the decline of the wealthy individual patron. It is right to pursue all possible alternative means of support, from industrial patronage and museum shops to a more benign tax regime for individual patrons but these endeavours can at best only *supplement* public subsidy. There are few votes in public support for the arts, but Britain's high international standing in the field makes them a vital foreign exchange earner. Failing to give them the support they need would prove in the end a catastrophic false economy.

LET TAXPAYERS PUT ASUNDER

The Law Society has seldom been seen as the promulgator of radical solutions. Its urgent plea for immediate reform of the tax system is therefore the more remarkable. The burden of the Society's message is that the tax system as it affects families is grossly unfair and in urgent need of adjustments. If, as the Government has indicated, full-scale reform is not possible until the end of the decade, then the Law Society believes, interim measures must be taken to redress *some* of the worst inequities. Few would disagree.

The real inequities stem from the outdated notion that women once married do not exist as separate taxpaying members of society. Our property laws long ago recognized a married woman's right to own property, but the tax laws trail miserably behind, failing to take account of women's dramatically changed role in society.

In December 1980 the Government published a Green Paper on the Taxation of Husband and Wife putting forward for debate several possible solutions. Since then most organizations have made their representations to the Inland Revenue. They have come down firmly in favour of mandatory separate taxation of husband and wife and the removal of the married man's allowance, with the surplus being used to increase child benefit. The sticking point is whether the tax allowance of the non-working spouse, usually the wife, should be transferable to the husband to be offset against his income.

Organizations which represent the older woman — often housewives without paid *employment* — feel that removal of the married man's allowance without making the wife's personal allowance transferable to the husband would put childless couples with non-working wives at a disadvantage.

With the proportion of working wives approaching 65 per cent *amongst younger age* groups it is probably truer to say that childless couples with nonworking wives enjoy over generous tax treatment compared with families with children.

Much of this resentment could be removed if the Government were to take the first step to do away with the married man's allowance and use the surplus to increase child benefit. Whether or not separate taxation should be mandatory (the source of the Government's reluctance to act since the Inland Revenue complains that mandatory separate taxation would overnight double the administrative burden) could be decided at a later date, as could the capital gains tax factors. As compensation for the couple with a nonworking wife, it should be possible to make concessions on the treatment of a wife's investment income to balance the loss of the married man's allowance. The Government has itself effectively abolished tax on investment income by its flooding of the market with tax free National Savings securities; so the loss of revenue would probably be negligible.

What is unacceptable is the Government's argument that major changes on tax treatment of families should await computerisation of the system in the late eighties. It may be an excuse that the Inland Revenue staff finds acceptable. It is not an excuse for a government that came into power with the declared determination to give our tax system the radical overhaul that it needs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Restoring communion with Rome?

From The Right Reverend John R. H. Moorman and the Right Reverend Edward Knapp-Fisher

Sir, The Anglican Communion is faced by a great dilemma. It is confronted on the one hand by the ancient Churches represented by Rome and Orthodoxy, and on the other by Protestantism in all its forms. The time has now come when it must make a decision between them.

The time is fast approaching when we shall be asked not "To which Church do you belong?", but "Are you a Christian?". In an age marked by the revival of such religions as Islam and Hinduism as well as by the growth of Marxism and indifferentism, Christians constitute but a small part of the world's population. In these circumstances it is essential that we should become, and be seen to be, one Church; and that Church must surely have Roman Catholicism as its basis. Our first priority should therefore be to enter into communion with Rome.

For four hundred years our relations with the Roman Catholic Church have been unhappy, and with some reason. In the past *Rome has been both intransigent* and offensive. As recently as 1928, in the encyclical *Mortalium Animos*, Pius XI made the monstrous declaration that "Whosoever is not united with the body (ie the Roman Catholic Church) is no member of it, *neither is he in Communion with Christ its head*".

Even John XXIII regarded Vatican II as an opportunity for that Church so to put itself in order that those outside could return into the fold of Peter. That has all changed and Rome is now discussing questions of unity with Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and others with a view to establishing that one great Church to which we all look.

In 1966 the then Archbishop of Canterbury and Paul VI agreed that examination of the theological questions which separated Canterbury from Rome should be inaugurated without delay. The Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission appointed for this purpose has now completed its work.

The Agreed Statements already published on Eucharist, Ministry and Authority indicate that on doctrinal matters our two churches are much closer than seemed possible. These three Statements, together with a fourth and other important material, will be included in the commission's Final Report which *it is hoped will be published in* January, 1982. This should be compulsory reading for all those concerned with ecumenism if widespread but outdated, irrelevant and uninformed prejudices are to be removed.

Whether or not the Agreed *Statements* will be acceptable to our two churches and lead to unity between us is open to question. They clearly demonstrate, however, that on important matters upon which we have disagreed there is a considerable degree of genuine agreement between us.

What then should the Anglican Communion do? If, as surely we should, we take the long view, we should grasp the opportunity now before us and at least postpone entering into agreements with other churches which would inevitably draw us away from what is bound to be the coming great Church.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. H. MOORMAN,
EDWARD KNAPP-FISHER,
22 Springwell Road,
Durham.

Romney Marsh

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and others

Sir, We write in support of the appeal which Mr Michael Nightingale has made (November 28) on behalf of the Romney Marsh churches.

Few parts of Southern England retain such peculiarly local character as the bleak countryside of Romney Marsh and the *churches scattered over its flat* fields of sheep, corn, and potatoes are a group of quite exceptional medieval buildings.

Despite some generous assistance in the past, several of these churches now urgently need major repairs, which their small congregations cannot afford. As a result we ask all those with an interest in the maintenance of historic buildings to help make them structurally sound, so that they can still serve as places of worship — and magnificent monuments to the faith of those who built them.

Mr Nightingale has drawn attention to the open meeting at St George's Ivychurch (itself a crumbling fourteenth-century building in the heart of the Marsh) on Saturday, December 5, at 2.30 pm. For those who would like to help maintain these marvellous churches, but cannot attend, donations can be sent to: Romney Marsh Rural Churches, Barclays Bank, Cranbrook, Kent.

Yours faithfully
†ROBERT CANTUAR,
RICHARD INGRAMS,
JOHN PIPER
Lambeth Palace, SE1,
November 30.

From Mr Christopher Gilson

Sir, The appalling revelation (November 28) that nine churches on Romney Marsh could only offer one service between them on a Sunday is a serious condemnation of current Anglican attitudes to worship. At almost every Anglican meeting *nowadays one hears bishops* and clergy speaking of the priesthood of the laity and their desire to involve the laity more in the running of the Church. As soon as any real opportunity for showing the reality of these views occurs, the story changes.

On Romney Marsh *all* of these churches could have had Mattins and Evensong said or sung every Sunday, if the local laity were really involved. Churchwardens may take the services if no one else is available, but surely the local area must contain readers willing to travel out into the Marsh to ensure that the worship of God is maintained in these holy buildings?

To pass a church which does not open weekly for the worship of God is to proclaim a Church in retreat. If the diocese involved is unwilling to serve God on the Marsh, or anywhere else, is there not an Anglican layman who can create a national army of church people who promise to maintain the worship once entrusted to the clergy, who now retreat and close what they will not maintain and share?

The obsession of the Church with the Communion Service, and the inflation which is cutting the number of clergy, will soon close many more churches. Unless readers and other laity are mobilized to maintain the life of prayer and praise, the present state of non-worship on Romney Marsh will soon become normal in wide tracts of rural England and, one suspects, in industrial England too.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GILSON
28 Cell Farm Avenue,
Old Windsor,
Berkshire
November 29

From the President of Kent County Cricket Club

Sir, Mr D. H. L. Hopkinson (December 2), making the point that certain churches on Romney Marsh in the diocese of Canterbury have been closed whereas two others which are in the Chichester diocese remain open, remarks strangely that "All Sussex men have known for centuries that we conduct our affairs *and cricket* better than Kent."

And cricket? I imagine that supporters of Sussex cricket may have been somewhat mystified by this peculiar claim. If results are fair evidence they will know that over the 1970s their men won one title against the 10 of Kent, plus another shared.

However the strong challenge for the County Championship made last summer by John Barclay's Sussex team was greatly admired on this side of the border, and if our ancient opponents were to win their first-ever championship Kent would be among the first to applaud.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. SWANTON,
Delf House,
Sandwich,
Kent.
December 3.

From the Clerk of Romney Marsh

Sir, May I correct Messrs, Nightingale (November 28) and Hopkinson (December 2)?

The parishes of Midley, Brookland and Fairfield mentioned by Mr Nightingale and those of Camber and East Guldeford quoted by Mr Hopkinson are not in Romney Marsh. They are in Walland Marsh.

The parish of Dymchurch *is* within Romney Marsh and at least two services are held in the parish church of St Peter and St Paul each Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
A. F. LACKNER,
Clerk's Office,
New Hall,
Dymchurch,
Romney Marsh,
Kent,
December 2.

Wheelchairs at cinemas

From Mr E. G. Herzog

Sir, The point raised by the Reverend Derek Hayward (November 28) is a difficult one. *Having* been the editor of the *Sheffield Guide for the Disabled* for 10 years, I have had many conversations with cinema managers. They are rightly afraid of the responsibilities involved. The "access" sign says simply "yes". One cannot modify it by such sentences as "Yes if legs only affected but arms strong". "No unless accompanied by a resourceful adult". A single step, a heavy door open towards you — one can easily be defeated, especially if the lights have failed and there is a panic.

Helpful managers of cinemas, night clubs or bingo halls sometimes allow a disabled person into an ordinary seat and then insist that the wheelchair be taken outside. This seems to me the worst possible solution. Can *one imagine someone trying* to bring a wheelchair into a hall against a stream of people trying to get out? It is an outbreak of fire which, after all, we are talking about!

A wheelchair is an eminently mobile thing and not to be *compared to a crate of bottles* or a bucket and broom which fall under the heading, "the gangways must at all times be kept free from obstruction". A booklet describing access to places of entertainment and covering the whole country exists but, although it has a foreword by the then Minister for the Disabled, it completely ignores this point; nor does it mention the great danger the immobile handicapped person could be to others when made to sit at the end of a row of seats.

A preliminary inspection and a talk with the staff seems the only solution. And one further point: toilets in cinemas are almost invariably hopeless.

Yours truly,
E. G. HERZOG,
81 Marsh House Road,
Sheffield.
November 29.

What Social Democrats stand for

From the Reverend P. Rowntree Clifford

Sir, Politicians frequently misrepresent the views of their opponents in the mistaken belief that this strengthens their own case. As a result they undermine their credibility. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in the repeated charge that the Liberal-Social Democratic Alliance is lacking in policies.

The crucial difference from both the Conservative and the Labour parties is the commitment of the Alliance to constitutional reform which, David Steel has consistently argued, is the *sine qua non* of economic recovery. Confidence in our democratic institutions will not be restored without it, nor will a period of stability be secured in which industrialists can plan for the future without the fear of drastic swings of the pendulum.

Furthermore, it is maintained, this could underpin the beginning of a new climate of co-operation with co-partnership and profit-sharing in industry, making unacceptable the dogfight which has bedevilled the British economy for so many years.

There is also, of course, the wholehearted commitment to Europe and to partnership with the countries of the Third World, disastrously relegated on the agenda of both Conservative and Labour parties.

More detailed policies on a range of other subjects have long been adopted by the Liberal Party and it seems that the Social Democrats are likely to be in broad agreement with these when the joint working groups have completed their discussions.

A radically fresh approach to politics and the economy is now being offered to the British people. The other two parties are entitled to disagree with what is being proposed. They should stop the nonsense of pretending that they do not know what the policies are.

Yours faithfully,
P. ROWNTREE CLIFFORD,
The Reform Club,
Pall Mall, SW1.
December 2.

From Mr Kevin O'Sullivan

Sir, Ian Bradley's profile of the SDP ("Socially Distinguished People", November 30) was surely unfair in describing the membership as middle-class people with conservative views.

The poll he quotes showed overwhelming support (ie more than 70 per cent) for: staying in the Common Market; an incomes policy; government aid to industry; multilateral disarmament; worker-directors in companies; *curtailment of trade union legal* immunities; the mixed economy.

It also showed an overwhelming antipathy (72 per cent) to "leaving private schools as they are" and was in favour of the introduction of a wealth tax. Far from being conservative this programme seems reformist in the Callaghan-Healey tradition with a touch of M Mitterrand thrown in.

The SDP may be middle class (80 per cent of the British people consider that they are middle class) but on the evidence they're not conservative.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN O'SULLIVAN,
47 Draycott Place, SW3.
December 1.

From Mr David J. Willis

Sir, *Weekend World's* comprehensive survey of the SDP showed what was already clear, that they are a predominantly middle-class self-centred "moderate" party who are in favour of reform as long as it doesn't affect them.

Their anti-trade union posture is in fact more extreme than the Government's present proposals and on most other issues is closer to the Tory "wets" than to even the Liberals. Shirley Williams' and David Owen's hopes for a radical party are certain to be dashed.

If, as seems certain, Roy Jenkins is confirmed as leader, the electorate will be faced with a choice of either Tory or pseudo-Tory with the Liberals swallowed up and absorbed.

The only real alternative will as always be the Labour Party and unless they can reassert themselves and present a credible and unified stance to the voters the prospects will be bleak indeed.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID J. WILLIS,
Isfrin, 23 Cargwyn,
Penwithick,
St Austell, Cornwall.
November 29.

Prison sentences

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Lord Justice Lawton (November, 27) states that his experience in the criminal courts stretching over 46 years leads him to think that recidivist offenders would be likely to start re-offending within days or weeks of their being released. Hence the Lord Chief Justice and those Lords Justices who preside in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) did not favour the automatic release on licence after one-third of any sentence of three years or less, which the Home Secretary was proposing to introduce in the Criminal Justice Bill.

They concluded from their experience that while persistent offenders are in *prison* they are not preying on the public; to countenance legislation allowing for their earlier release would simply invite the judges to compensate by lengthening their sentences.

Given that imprisonment for potential recidivists merely postpones the furthering of their criminal careers, the crucial question is: will postponement of re-offending *be materially* curtailed by an earlier release? The periodicity of re-offending is not readily calculable; it certainly has not been established in fact what Lord Justice Lawton and his judicial colleagues would have us believe. I would merely quote paragraph 193 of the report in 1978 on Sentences of Imprisonment by the Advisory Council on the Penal System, a report that has been sadly neglected:

"We draw some comfort from the conclusion of the parole study (Parole in England and Wales, Home Office Research Study No 38, 1976) which stated that a more liberal policy on the part of the Parole Board in recent years, compared with the policy adopted when parole was introduced in 1968, had not worsened the failure rate of parolees during the period of the licence. As we record in Chapter 3, a policy of reducing sentences has been effected in the past, admittedly in different circumstances from today, without apparently increasing the crime rate. Although the reconviction figures we studied do not give cause for optimism, it is after all, easy to exaggerate the effect that shorter sentences might have on the totality of offending. We acknowledge that there is likely to be some increase in the commission of offences, but we believe that this is a risk we must all be prepared to take."

More recent research undertaken for the Home Office Research Unit by Messrs Brodie and Tarling has affirmed that the incapacitation of offenders does not materially affect the overall crime rate.

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
Goldsmith Building, EC4.

Wage-inflation tax

From Mr J. Leonard Nicholson

Sir, The trouble, I suggest, with the wage-inflation tax is that, while the *additional* incentive which it gives employers to resist wage claims would harden their attitude, that would only harden the attitude of workers who are given *no* incentive to moderate their claims. Indeed, the lefties in the trade unions who like to believe that, each time they win a wage award, they are punishing the class enemy would raise their demands in the hope of scoring a double blow since, on top of the higher wages, their employers would have to pay the tax. The Trotskyites among them would enjoy a field day.

Yours faithfully,
J. LEONARD NICHOLSON,
Policy Studies Institute,
1-2 Castle Lane, SW1.
November 30.

Question of credit

From Mr Malvyn A. Benjamin

Sir, Last Monday the *Panorama* programme on BBC1 gave a very penetrating analysis of the way in which Colonel Gaddafi and the Libyan Government have become the promoter and paymaster of international terrorism.

It was therefore with astonishment that my attention was drawn to the Eurocredit arranged for Libya. This credit was established mainly by Arab or Arab-related institutions, but a British bank, the Midland, is also participating.

I believe that the bank owes its shareholders and customers an explanation, because one's concern is not merely over political differences. Libya has become a pariah in the international community, sending picked teams throughout the world to assassinate exiled opponents of its Government, and having regard to the numerous men, women and children killed or maimed at the hands of international terrorist organizations financed by Libya, the bank obviously has many questions to answer.

I am therefore requesting that *the "listening bank" listens to its* customers and perhaps even to its conscience.

Yours sincerely,
MALVYN BENJAMIN, Joint Chairman,
Herut Movement of Great Britain,
71 Compayne Gardens, NW6.
November 25.

The burden of lorries

From Mr A. C. McKinnon

Sir, The recent Transport White Paper claims that, if lorry weights are increased by the proposed amounts, industry's freight transport bill can be reduced by around £150 million. May I suggest an alternative way of achieving a comparable level of saving which, unlike the lorry *weight proposal*, would carry unquestionable environmental benefit?

It was estimated in 1978 that, at any given time, a third of the lorries on the roads are travelling empty, at a total cost to the nation of £400 million per annum. If, by a rationalization of freight distribution, the Government could reduce the amount of empty running by only 10 per cent, this would achieve a *similar* order of saving, while reducing the total volume of lorry traffic.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN C. MCKINNON,
Department of Geography,
The University, Leicester.
December 2.

Cuckoo revisited

From Mr H. D. A. Butcher

Sir, The letter in *The Times* last Saturday from the member of Parliament for Staffordshire, South West and others, about Hampstead Heath in general, and Witanhurst in particular, rang a bell in my head. Had I read it all before?

By a strange coincidence I then picked up the second edition of *The First Cuckoo* (Being letters to *The Times*) and, opening it fortuitously at page 282, read a letter of February 17, 1971, from Yehudi Menuhin on the same subject.

I hope, *deo volente*, and expect to read another such letter in 1991.

Yours truly,
H. D. A. BUTCHER,
26 Talbot Road,
Lyme Regis,
Dorset.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 4: The Queen was represented by Malcolm Innes of Edingight (Lord Lyon King of Arms) at the funeral of Sir James Monteith Grant (formerly Lord Lyon King of Arms), which was held at Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, this afternoon.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 4: The Duke of Kent, as Chancellor, today presided at the Ceremony for the Conferment of High Degrees at the University of Surrey.
Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester, patron, Civic Trust for the North-east, will present 1981 enterprise Awards, Durham Cathedral, and visit Mill Museum and the Department of Archaeology, Durham, on December 7.

The Duke of Gloucester will present the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation third "Building for the Disabled Award", Royal Institute of British Architects, London, on December 8.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the postgraduate medical centre, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Queslett School, Walsall, and attend the Birmingham County Scout Gang Show, the Hippodrome, Birmingham, on December 9.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling, international consultation on career guidance in higher education, Robinson College, Cambridge, on December 14.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Grand Prior, the Order of St John, will hold a reception and investiture of Knights and Dames at St James's Palace, London, on December 16.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester will attend a court luncheon given by the Gardeners' Company at Savile Club, Brook Street, London, on December 18.

Princess Alexandra will visit the International Domestic Electrical Appliances Trade Fair at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on January 13.

Birthdays

Mr Dave Brubeck, the jazz musician, who is 61 tomorrow.

TODAY: Lord Chalfont, 62; Miss Lucie Clayton, 53; Sir William Downward, 69; Miss Enid M. Essame, 75; Major-General H. R. B. Foote, VC, 77; Mr Justice Foster, 69; the Earl of Longford, 76; Lord Matthews, 62; Lord Nathan, 59; Mr Otto Preminger, 75; Lord Rotherwick, 69; Mr Jeremy Sandford, 47; Dame Mary Smieton, 79.

TOMORROW; Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP, 59; Air Marshal Sir John Curtis, 57; the Earl of Dundonald, 63; Sir Dennis Hamilton, 63; Mr Derek Hill, 65; Mr R. E. B. Lloyd, 53; Sir William Keswick, 78; the Right Rev E. A. J. Mercer, 64; Professor Sir George Porter, 61; Mr J. D. Trustram Eve, 84; Dr B. Thwaites, 58; Mr C. Washbrook, 67.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. J. Dearman and Miss C. C. Smith

The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs J. Dearman, of St Albans, and Camilla, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. T. Smith, of Redbourn.

Mr D. E. Keeling and Miss C. C. M. Stern

The forthcoming marriage is announced between David Edward, fifth son of Mr and Mrs M. Keeling, of Sedlescombe, East Sussex, and Camilla Clare Maria, younger daughter of Professor and Mrs J. P. Stern, of Cambridge.

Marriage

Mr D. M. Green and Miss L. J. Prior-Palmer

The marriage took place yesterday at the Church of St Mary and St Nicholas, Wilton, Wiltshire, between Mr David Green, younger son of Mr and Mrs Barry Green, of Brisbane, Queensland, and Lucinda Prior-Palmer, daughter of the late Major-General G. E. Prior-Palmer and of Lady Doreen Prior-Palmer, of Appleshaw House, Andover, Hampshire. The Rev J. Lever and the Rev I. Tomlinson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Simon Prior-Palmer, wore a gown of white embroidered tulle and she carried a bouquet of white tulips. Lorna Maxwell attended her and Mr Nicholas Lee was best man.

A reception was held at Wilton House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

25 Years Ago

From The Times of Tuesday December 4 1956

Allied forces to leave "without delay"

Westminster, Monday. — Immediately after the Foreign Secretary had announced to the tense, crowded House of Commons today that the French and British Governments had come to the conclusion that the withdrawal of their forces in the Port Said area could now be carried out without delay, the Opposition released a great noise of exultation, irony, and mockery. It drowned any faint sound of applause which may have escaped the grave and anxious ranks opposite. Whatever emotions possessed the Conservative ranks, only one or two gave words to them, but they had a bitter sting of disillusionment. Mr Julian Amery called it a "humiliating withdrawal", and condemned bitingly the part played by the United States, the Opposition, and a small handful of Conservatives in bringing us to it.

The fidelities of Pope John XXIII

Angelo Roncalli, the future Pope John XXIII, was born on November 25 a hundred years ago in the village of Sotto il Monte, not far from Bergamo. He was baptized the same day. He died on June 3, 1963, mourned by the whole world.

For most of his 81 years he kept a diary, posthumously published as the *Journal of a Soul*. It is the detailed record of his spiritual ups and downs. It reveals his Counter-Reformation piety. An American author has recently told us to ignore it, because it throws no light on "his anarchic approach to much of the Church's tradition." It would be difficult to devise a more crass misstatement. It makes Roncalli unintelligible. Of course he developed in the course of his long life. But the development was organic, and hints of what was to come can be found in his very early writings.

On April 29, 1903, he has an entry in his diary about the visit of King Edward VII to the aged Pope Leo XIII. He moralises in the way of young clerics at the frivolous display and the expense. He expresses his delight that this Protestant king should overcome anti-clerical prejudice and visit the Vatican. Then his imagination takes wing: "It is a *sign of the times* that after a night of such storms, we see the new dawn rising for the Vatican."

The phrase "sign of the times" may have been used accidentally. But it was to become the key to his pontificate. It recalled the saying of Jesus in Luke's Gospel: "You know how to intepret the signs of the times" (12:56).

It was this approach that allowed Pope John to regard what was happening in the world — its trends and tendencies — as a message from the Holy Spirit. It meant that theology could be opened up to the new, the unexpected, the surprising.

A second attitude of John XXIII which had deep roots was his sense that, as he told the Second Vatican Council, "history will be our guide." On December 4, 1907 he gave a lecture on Cardinal Cesare Baronius. He regarded this Oratorian scholar as one of the founders of modern history.

The lecture was interesting because of its timing. It was the third centenary of Baronius's death; but it came only three months after the encyclical *Pascendi* had first invented and then denounced a rag-bag theological school called "Modernism". A grim witch-hunt was already under way. Yet Roncalli, in his lecture, defends "historical criticism" and speaks without hesitation of "the wonderful progress that has been made in scientific history in the last few years". This sort of remark made him enemies. He was absurdly accused of Modernism by a powerful Roman cardinal. He always knew that those who ignore history are condemned to repeat its mistakes.

Roncalli had, again from an early date, a keen sense of "constitutionality": there was a proper way of doing things. The way things were done after 1907 displeased him. His tart comment on Pope Pius X was, "Lets himself be overwhelmed by worries and shows himself too anxious". St Pius (he was canonized in 1954) was particularly worried about orthodoxy. He devised "apostolic visitations" in which an inquisitor would descend without warning upon a diocese, install himself comfortably in the seminary, and interrogate the teaching staff.

If such "apostolic vexations" (as Cardinal Carlo Ferrari, of Milan, called them) were the wrong way to set about reform, what was the right way? Roncalli found the answer close at hand. His own Bishop, Radini Tedeschi, held a Synod in the diocese of Bergamo. And Ferrari put in his way historical documents about how St Charles Borromeo had reformed the archdiocese of Milan after the Council of Trent. Episcopal visitations were his answer. When Roncalli, for the first time in his life, acquired a diocese and became Patriarch of Venice (that was in 1954), one of his early acts was to hold a Synod. He took the same approach on arriving in Rome. The Rome Synod was rather unsuccessful. But of course, the difference now was that "constitutionality", as applied to the whole Church, meant summoning a Council.

His long experience with the Orthodox Churches — ten years in Bulgaria and nine in Turkey and Greece — confirmed him in his view that Church leaders should admit that they are far less important in the Church than the Holy Spirit. On Whitsunday 1944, for example, he preached a most remarkable sermon in Istanbul on the Holy Spirit in the Church; 1944 was not a year when there were many gleams of sunlight on the horizon. Nevertheless he spoke of his dream of a "New Pentecost" in which the Spirit would animate and energize all levels of the Church. He later applied the term "New Pentecost" to the Council he called.

Two conclusions of some importance follow. Pope John knew what he was doing. He was far from being the naive, holy rustic some imagined him to be. He had a plan — not a blue-print worked out in advance, but a plan. Second, the ideas he tried to realize in his papacy had deep roots in the North Italian tradition of sound scholarship and Christian social commitment.

No one, however, could claim that he was a great thinker. For the most part his thinking was done through metaphors — and was none the worse for that. On the death of Pope Pius XII he wrote in his diary: "One of my favourite phrases brings me great comfort: we are not on earth as museum-keepers but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life and to prepare a glorious future". All his metophors were metaphors of growth, of letting be, of leaving room for the Holy Spirit. That may explain why he was so much loved.

Peter Hebblethwaite

Dinners

Old Merchant Taylors' Society

The Old Merchant Taylors' Society held their annual dinner at the Royal Garden Hotel last night. Mr Frank Laws Johnson, president of the society, was in the chair and the guests included the Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company, Mr W. H. Thorning, acting headmaster, and Mr D. Skipper, headmaster-elect.

The Nine Dials

The Nine Dials gave a dinner at the Steering Wheel Club, Piccadilly, on Tuesday, December 1. Mr Jonathon Blaksley was in the chair.

Old Bristolians' Society

The annual reunion dinner of the Old Bristolians' Society, London branch, was held last night at the Athenaeum. Sir Paul Osmond presided. Mr Roy Avery, Headmaster of Bristol Grammar School, and Mr Michael Booker, president of the society, also spoke.

Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators

The twenty-fifth livery dinner of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators was held at Innholders' Hall last night. The Master, Captain Charles Klimcke, presided

Service dinners

The Wessex Regiment

A supper party for past and present officers of the 1st Battalion (Rifle Volunteers) and the 2nd Battalion (Volunteers) The Wessex Regiment was held at Wyvern Mess, Bulford, last night. Major-General J. C. A. Gilbert and Brigadier J. B. Oldfield, Honorary Colonels, attended.

Honourable Artillery Company

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Morony, Vice-Chief of the General Staff, and Mr John Keegan were the guests of the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club at dinner at Armoury House last night. Major J. P. Sworder, president of the club, was in the chair. Major W. C. Loscombe also spoke.

Exeter Flotilla

The annual ladies' guest night dinner of Exeter Flotilla was held last night at the Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines, Lympstone. Lieutenant-Commander Arthur Tenniswood, chairman of the flotilla, presided. The guests included Rear-Admiral David Haslam, Hydrographer of the Navy, Lieutenant-Colonel N. C. Thompson, RM, and Mr and Mrs Arnold Sayers.

Latest wills

Miss Enid Frances Anne Stuart, of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £245,597 net. After a personal bequest she left the rest of her estate to the Gloucestershire Association for the Disabled.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Clappison, Mr Leonard, of Patrington, Humberside..£293,343
Couser, Mr Hugh Graham, of Ross-on-Wye, Hertfordshire £453,703
Dugdale, Mr James Edward, of Bournemouth £638,698
Hugh, Mr Albert Cecil, of Chigwell, Essex £273,453
Irvine, Gwendoline Winifred, of Croydon £327,742
King, Mr William Henry, of King's Lynn £274,292
Merritt, Mr Reginald Peter, of Merstham, Surrey £498,147
Simms, Mrs Louisa Margaret, late of Chester ....£377,800 net.



Lucinda Prior-Palmer, the rider, and Mr David Green leaving the Church of St Mary and St Nicholas at Wilton, Wiltshire, yesterday after their marriage.

Lithograph makes £33,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The new enthusiasm for German Expressionism was reflected in the print market yesterday when a 1913 lithograph by Emile Nolde entitled *Junges Parr* was sold at Sotheby's for £33,000; the last time there was an impression on the market the price was only £17,000. A £50,600 record for a Nolde drawing was set at Sotheby's on Wednesday.

The most expensive lot in the sale was Picasso's *Minotauromachie*, a famous etching of 1935. The price was £72,600 estimate (£60,000-£75,000) and it sold to Nolte, a German dealer.

The other star lot of the sale failed to attract the expected enthusiasm: Toulouse-Lautrec's 1897 lithograph, *Idyll Princière*, a very rare print recording the Princesse de Caraman-Chimay's romance with a gypsy, was unsold at £21,000; Sotheby's had been expecting £30,000-£40,000.

Other high prices included Picasso's *Fammme au Tambourin* of 1938, at £61,600 and Munch's "Geschrei", of 1895, at £55,300. The sale of modern prints was 25 per cent unsold.

There was a sudden unexpected lift off in arts and crafts prices in Paris yesterday. A Loudmer sale contained a set of six black lacquer tables by J. Dunand (1877-1947), each of reducing size to tuck inside the last; they were bid to 139,000 francs (estimate 60,000-80,000 francs) or £12,750.

An upright secretaire by Printz Eugene (1889-1948), the front with copper panels engraved with flamingoes among waves, sold for 132,000 francs, or £12,110, and a little chest of drawers with a sharkskin finish by Jallot Léon (1874-1967) made 117,000 francs (estimate 60,000-80,000 francs) or £10,734.

The sale also included a cast of Rodin's famous bronze, "The Kiss"; it more than tripled expectations to sell for 250,000 francs (estimate 60,000-80,000 francs) or £22,936.

In another Paris sale, Laurin-Guilloux were offering a collection of autograph manuscripts and letters, mainly of French literary interest.

Services tomorrow: Second Sunday in Advent

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC, 8; M, 10.30, Benedicite, Jubilate: Sumsion in B flat, Bishop of Salisbury; 11.30 HC, Byrd a 4; E, 3.15, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis (Tippett) Sancti Johannis Cantabrigiense, A. Lord let me know mine End (Greene), Canon Pilkington.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: HC, 8; M, 10.30, Benedicite: Harris in A; And he shall Purify [illegible]

[illegible]

(Palestrina), A Sicut cervus (Palestrina); E 6.30, Healey Willan (Plainsong and FB), A Super Humina Babylonis (Palestrina), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, FLEET STREET: HC, 8.30; 11 Choral Matins and Eucharist (Prebendary Dewi Morgan); 6.30 Choral Evensong (Prebendary Dewi Morgan).

ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE: HC, 8.30; Sung Eucharist, 11, Asterne Christi Munera (Palestrina); A, Audi vocem (Tallis), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, PICCADILLY: HC, 8.30; Sung Eucharist, 11.00, EP 6.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: 9.45, Family Communion, Norman Ingram-[illegible]

[illegible]

OBITUARY

MR H. G. KIRWAN-TAYLOR

Consulting obstetric surgeon

Mr H. G. Kirwan-Taylor, FRCS, who died on December 2 at the age of 86, was formerly senior obstetric surgeon to St George's Hospital and senior surgeon to the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road.

Harold George Kirwan-Taylor was born on April 14, 1895, the son of Alfred George Taylor, and was educated at Epsom College, at Trinity College, Cambridge, and at St George's Hospital. He qualified as MRCS, LRCP (1917), MB, BCh (1920), and FRCSEng (1924).

Apart from the appointments already mentioned he was consulting obstetric and gynaecological surgeon to the Woolwich War Memorial Hospital, gynaecological surgeon to the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, and gynaecological consultant to the Ministry of Pensions. He acted as an examiner for the University of Cambridge, the Society of Apothecaries, the Conjoint Board and the Central Midwives Board.

Kirwan-Taylor served in the First World War, first as a surgeon probationer with the RNVR and later as a surgeon in the Royal Navy. At the beginning of the Second World War he worked as a surgeon in the Emergency Medical Service, but in 1940 he was permitted to join the RAMC and he gave distinguished service with the Middle East Force, acting for a short period as one of its consulting surgeons, and with the British North Africa Force and Italy. He was mentioned in dispatches and retired with the rank of honorary colonel, Army Medical Service.

Apart from his profession, Kirwan-Taylor had many diverse interests. He was fond of nearly all outdoor sports, and on his farm at Mersham he bred pedigree Guernsey cattle and Wessex saddle-back pigs.

He married in 1926 Elizabeth Mary, daughter of J. R. J. Neild, and there were a son and three daughters of the marriage. The marriage was dissolved in 1946.

MR DONALD BYFORD

Mr Donald Byford, CBE, founder of the internationally known hosiery manufacturers, D. Byford & Co., Ltd, died on November 23, aged 83.

He was a son of C. W. Byford, of Clare, Suffolk, and was educated at Bishop's Stortford College. After serving as a lieutenant in the Royal Tank Corps during the First World War, he went to Leicester to learn the hosiery trade, and in 1921 at the age of 23 began in a small way what fifty years later, had grown into a huge manufacturing company with considerable overseas as well as home sales in knitwear.

He had been president of the National Federation of Hosiery Manufacturers and a member of the council of the CBI and was a past master of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters.

A vigorous and active supporter of British exports, he was for some years deputy chairman of the Committee for Exports to the USA, to which he made over 40 trade visits. He was made CBE in 1963.

He was also a faithful supporter of his parish church at Thurcaston and latterly at Thrussington, and was an invaluable treasurer of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, which benefited greatly from his business acumen.

He is survived by his widow, Marjorie, daughter of the late Alderman W. K. Billings, Lord Mayor of Leicester, whom he married in 1922. They had two sons and a daughter.

MR HERSHY KAY

Mr Hershy Kay, the American composer and arranger, well-known for his ballet scores and orchestrations of Broadway productions, died December 2 at the age of 62.

He was born in Philadelphia on November 17, 1919, and was a contemporary of Leonard Bernstein at the Curtis Institute of Music in that city. He orchestrated Bernstein's Broadway musical show *On the Town* in 1944, and later *Candide* and *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* and *Mass* for the opening of the Kennedy Centre in 1971. Orchestrations at present on Broadway for which he was responsible include *Evita*; *A Chorus Line* and *Barnum*.

Kay received many commissions for ballet orchestrations and often based his ballets on existing material: American folksongs (*Western Symphony*); music by Sousa (*Stars and Stripes*); Coward (*Grand Tour*), Weber, Chopin and others. He had also executed commissions for the Royal Ballet and the Royal Danish Ballet.

MAJ-GENERAL C. R. W. LAMPLOUGH

Major-General Charles Robert Wharram Lamplough, CBE, DSC, who died on November 28 at the age of 85, was Major-General commanding Plymouth Group, Royal Marines from 1946 to 1949. He won his Distinguished Service Cross at the Zeebrugge Raid in 1918.

The son of Robert Lamplough, he was educated at Warwick School and joined the Royal Marines in 1914 later serving in the Mediterranean, in the Grand Fleet and in the Dardanelles. In the Second World War he was made a CBE as a major-general on the staff of the Supreme Allied Commander SEAC. He was honorary Colonel Commandant of the Plymouth Group, Royal Marines from 1953 to 1957.

He married in 1921 Doris Mary Ford. They had one daughter.

SIR OLAF CAROE

M. J. M. writes:

Those who remember the Delhi of 1947 will wish to add their tribute to the courage of the Governors in the approach to the transfer of power and not least to Sir Olaf Caroe.

After his return to Britain — where he valued to the last his honorary membership of The Guides (QVO Corps of Guides) — he carried forward into the field of letters his experience of the world of action. He was one of the last custodians, from first-hand knowledge, of our record in India. Nothing he wrote lacked style; and he will be sorely missed from the pages of the *Journal of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs*. He was always ready, too, to put at the disposal of new correspondents — (*experto crede*) his own wide and enthusiastic knowledge (eg, of the poetry of Khushhal).

One of his last acts was the gift of a Kashmir plane tree to the Deer Park at Magdalen — what a happy memorial of long service to the two lands which he equally loved, his own and the land of the Indus.

DR L. H. BUTLER

Dr Christopher Tyerman writes:

Your obituary rightly concentrated on Lionel's public career. Yet no assessment of his influence in the academic world and beyond is complete without recognition of his important contribution to the direction of medieval researches, and his outstanding generosity to younger scholars.

Over three decades, to undergraduates in their last year searching for a thesis topic, junior colleagues debating the future course of their careers, graduates with academic problems and his own research pupils, Lionel's advice and encouragement was of profound benefit. He had a long association with the Women's Institute college at Denman.

In spite of increasing burdens of administration, he continued to lecture and to supervise and examine these. A natural, almost compulsive teacher, he gave freely and gently of his knowledge and wisdom, never self-conscious or condescending in communicating and sharing his excitement in the past.

His wide sympathies made him a rare and rewarding superviser of research. His pupils were treated as equals and, by assuming their qualities, he quietly developed them. Many of those he helped have gone on to win high academic distinction.

University news

Oxford

[illegible]

MacDonald, department of Oral Medicine, for morphometric and cell kinetic studies of oral epithelium in folate deficiency in humans.

[illegible]

Saturday Review

From formerly secret documents in War Cabinet and Admiralty records the historian Martin Gilbert, biographer of Sir Winston Churchill, reconstructs the plotting and chance that in a few days of December 1941 visited disaster on Britain and America, and yet assured their ultimate victory



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MESSAGE. 0615z/10th Dec.

Addressed ADMIRALTY. From CHIEF OF STAFF, EASTERN FLEET.

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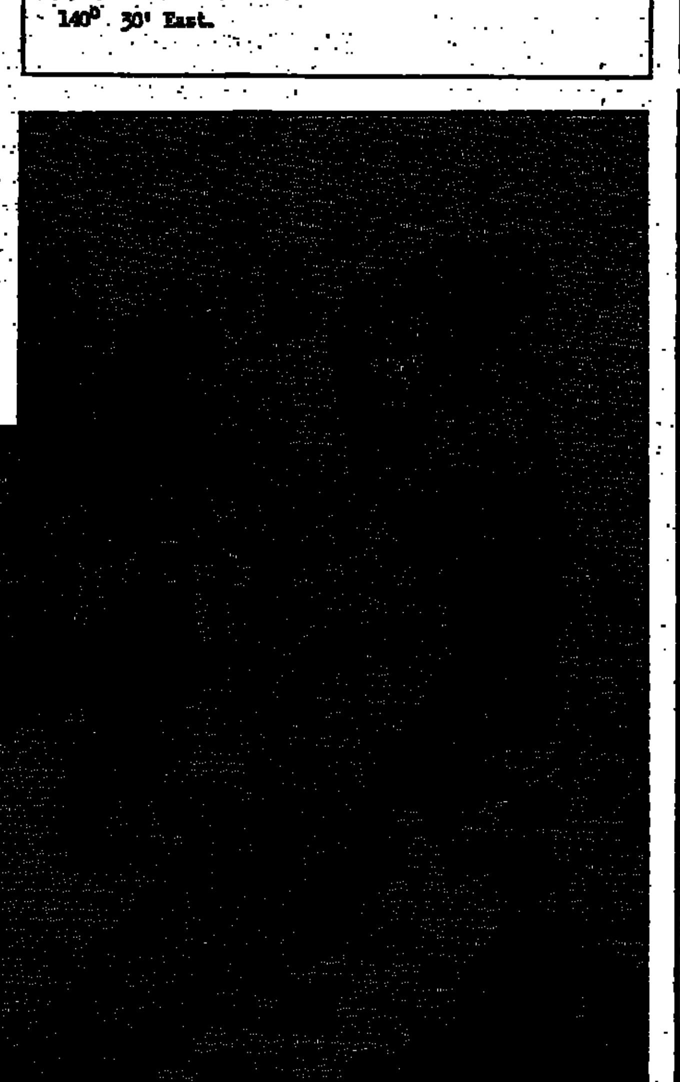
H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES and H.M.S. REPULSE

sunk by torpedoes at about 1317

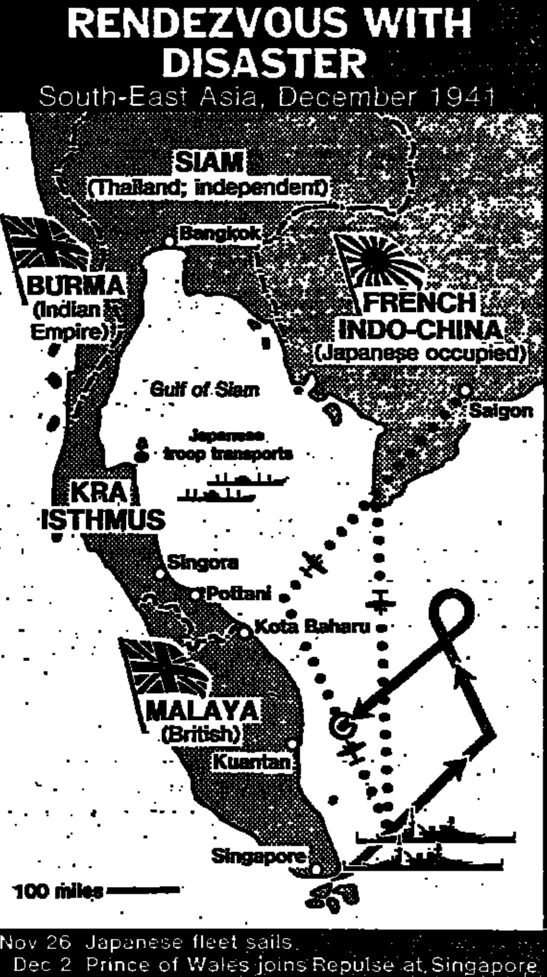
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Far left: Churchill waves farewell in August 1941 to the men of the Prince of Wales (35,000 tons) completed only at the end of March. He had been on board for talks with Roosevelt. Left below: the same men scramble over the battleship's side as she sinks off Malaya in December. Of 1,612 as many as 1,285 were saved. Left above: Captain Tennant and Canon Bezzant, chaplain, rescued from the Repulse (33,250 tons, launched 1916). Of 1,309 on board, 796 were saved. In the cable (centre) informing the Admiralty of the loss, the degrees of longitude should be 104. (Reproduced by permission of Controller H.M. Stationery Office).

The day they sank the deterrent

by Martin Gilbert

For the President of the United States the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was "a day that will live in infamy." For the British Prime Minister that same attack was "the greatest joy". After more than two years of American neutrality, Britain at last had America as an ally. "We had won the war", Churchill later reflected. "We should not be wiped out. Our history would not come to an end".

Yet for the two previous years Britain had been alone, and vulnerable. The Germans, aware of Britain's weakness in the Far East, had pressed the Japanese, since the beginning of 1941, to attack Singapore, and to drive the British from Malaya. To counter any such threat would involve sending a strong naval force to the eastern oceans. But to do this, Winston Churchill told Franklin Roosevelt, would weaken Britain's naval strength nearer home, "courting disaster" in the Mediterranean and Atlantic.

On June 22, 1941 Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, and a month later the United States imposed economic sanctions on Japan, as a protest against the Japanese occupation of French Indo-China. In August the Japanese proposed a general settlement between themselves and the United States. There would be no further Japanese advance into South-East Asia, and French Indo-China would be evacuated; in return America would recognize Japanese predominance in China.

Although these terms were unacceptable, they did give America time, as Churchill explained to Anthony Eden, to "procure a moratorium of, say, thirty days" in which Britain could "improve" her position in the Singapore area, while "the Japanese will have to stand still". At the same time a stern message to Japan, drafted by Churchill himself, was sent by Roosevelt to the Japanese Ambassador in Washington.

This message constituted an important secret step on the way to an American commitment. "Any further encroachment by Japan in the South-West Pacific", the message warned, "would produce a situation in which the United States Government would be compelled to take counter-measures, even though these might lead to war between the United States and Japan".

America's warning to Japan was, Churchill told Eden, "a very great advance towards the gripping of Japanese aggression by united forces". But in the view of the Dominion Prime Ministers, some British naval activity was also needed, if Japan were to be deterred from attacking Singapore and Malaya. In August 1941 Churchill received an urgent appeal from Australia for the early despatch of five capital ships, to be sent East of Suez, and to act as "the most powerful deterrent", as well as the "first step" in the building up of naval reinforcements in the event of war.

The Australian premier also wanted Britain to declare war on Japan should Japanese forces attack the independent state of Siam. But everything that Roosevelt had told Churchill when they met to discuss the Atlantic Charter confirmed that American neutrality was still the policy for the foreseeable future.

The conclusion which Churchill drew was a sombre one. "He sometimes wondered", the War Cabinet minutes recorded, "whether the President realized the risk which the United States were running by keeping out of the war. If Germany beat Russia to a standstill and the United States made no further advance towards entry into the war, there was a great danger that the war might take a turn against us". It seemed to Churchill that one way to encourage greater American involvement in the Far East was to put into operation the naval deterrent plan which the Australian Prime Minister had proposed, hoping that, with Roosevelt's warning, this would prevent any Japanese aggression for at least three months: then, in the event of war, there would be the nucleus of a naval war force.

In the Admiralty's view, however, the proposed naval force would be too great a hostage to fortune, and after considering the proposal "most carefully", wrote Dudley Pound, the First Sea Lord, "I cannot recommend it". Churchill deferred to the Admiral's judgment.

In mid-September a Joint Intelligence Committee assessment of the situation in the Far East concluded that Japan was apparently making offensive preparations against *Russia*. The Committee felt that Japan would not risk war against the United States and Great Britain by attacking Malaya, at least until Russia had been so weakened by Germany as to be compelled to reduce her Far East forces below their existing level. Which way would Japan turn, and when? "This Jap situation *is* definitely worse", Roosevelt warned Churchill on October 15; "I *think* they are headed North."

Further news on the following day seemed to bring some Japanese action suddenly much nearer, for it was learned that same evening that in Tokyo the moderate Konoye Cabinet had resigned. This news, Eden's private secretary, Oliver Harvey, noted in his diary, "seems to portend a forward movement by Japanese extremists". Where, he asked would they strike, "North against Vladivostok or South against Siam?" Neither British nor American territory seemed as yet directly threatened. But Britain, Harvey noted, was considering "despatch of a capital ship" to the Far East. "That would make a difference."

Anthony Eden had indeed revived Churchill's earlier idea of sending two British battleships to the Far East an immediate deterrent force. At the same time, the Australian Government now asked for an assurance that this force included "modern units". At the Defence Committee meeting on October 17, where Eden's proposal was discussed, it was Churchill who raised the question of sending the battleship Prince of Wales to the Far East, to join the Repulse, which was already in Singapore.

Three days later, at a further meeting of the Defence Committee, despite Dudley Pound's continuing hesitation, the Committee decided "that the importance of the early arrival of one of our latest battleships in Far Eastern waters outweighed the reasons put forward by the First Sea Lord for retaining all these King George V Class in Atlantic waters".

According to the Defence Committee, Pound's reasons had been outweighed because it was hoped that the presence of the Prince of Wales and the Repulse at Singapore "would act as a deterrent to Japan and avert war". If however the Japanese were in fact "on the point of taking the plunge", it was hoped by the Defence Committee that the battleships' presence would prevent them "from sending their expeditionary force to the southward" against Malaya. Although the Japanese would be *able* to bring down "a superior force", it was also felt "that the containing power of the strong American fleet at Hawaii would restrain them from any major venture into the Gulf of Siam".

The die was cast, and the Prince of Wales prepared to steam eastward. Even as she crossed the Indian Ocean, on November 26 a Japanese naval force set off through fogs and gales, from the Kurile Islands, north of Japan, its target the Pearl Harbor naval base at Hawaii.

Three days later the Chiefs of Staff Committee met in London. Intelligence reports confirmed a high state of Japanese military, naval and air alert, but gave no indication of where any attack might come. Indeed, it was still thought by those who studied these reports that Russia would be the principal, and perhaps the sole object of Japan's attack.

Hitler's forces were now within striking distance of Russia's main oil fields. Russia was thus a tempting target for Japan. But the intelligence observers also saw, to the south, a second possible target, the independent state of Siam, which, if conquered, would then pose a direct threat to the British in Malaya and Singapore.

Even as Admiral Tom Phillips, Commander-in-Chief of the new Far Eastern force, approached Singapore in the Prince of Wales, the danger signals intensified. On December 1 the Admiralty signalled Phillips that on his arrival he might send either the Prince of Wales or the Repulse "away from Singapore to disconcert the Japanese." The deterrent aspect was thus still the dominant factor.

Two days later, however, when the presence of Japanese submarines was reported in the area, the Admiralty signalled Phillips that he should request U.S. destroyers in the region to be sent to Singapore, and that he himself should get both the Prince of Wales and the Repulse "away from Singapore to the eastwards."

Unfortunately, Phillips was unable to carry out this immediate dash for safety, as the Prince of Wales had been taken in hand for essential repairs for seven days, and needed three full days' notice before being ready to sail.

On December 6, as the Prince of Wales prepared finally to sail, Japanese naval troop movements were reported that indicated a possible Japanese expedition southwards, towards the Kra Peninsula of Siam, on the northern border of Malaya. From the position of the transports, however, it was not possible, General Alan Brooke noted in his diary, "to tell whether they were going to Bangkok, to the Kra Peninsula, or whether they were just cruising round as a bluff".

On December 7 the three Chiefs of Staff (Pound, Portal and Alan Brooke), meeting in London, informed Churchill at Chequers that Britain was prepared to "fire the first shot" on any such Japanese expedition against Siam, "before it reached its objectives." She would only do so, however, provided Britain could be assured of American armed support, and also if a British attack would not be represented by isolationists in the United States as a deliberate attempt "to drag them into a British war."

That morning (British time) it was learned in London that Roosevelt would definitely regard it as a hostile act to the United States if Japan were to invade Malaya, Burma, the Dutch East Indies, or even Siam. This new American commitment was to be announced publicly by Roosevelt on Wednesday, December 10. "This is an immense relief," Churchill telegraphed to General Auchinleck on December 7, "as I had long dreaded being at war with Japan without or before the United States."

Even while this telegram was being sent, Japanese ships and aircraft were continuing their crossing of the Pacific on the final leg of their attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, that same "strong American fleet at Hawaii" which the British War Cabinet had so recently believed would deter the Japanese from any attack on British or Dutch possesions, or on Siam.

Early on the morning of December 7, Pacific time (early evening that day in Britain), 360 Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor, leaving in their wake more than two thousand American dead.

At nine o'clock that evening, Churchill was still at Chequers. Later, as he recalled, "I turned on my small wireless set shortly after the nine o'clock news had started...". He had missed the headlines, and it was his butler who came in with the news: "The Japanese have attacked the Americans".

Within a few minutes, Churchill was on the telephone to Roosevelt. "Mr. President", he asked, "what's this about Japan?" "It's quite true", Roosevelt replied. "They have attacked us at Pearl Harbor. We are all in the same boat now."

That same night Japanese forces landed in Siam, at Patani and Singora. They also landed at Kota Bharu in northern Malaya, on the Siamese border.

Admiral Phillips was at that moment in the Philippines conferring with his American opposite number. He immediately flew back to Singapore, where, at midday on December 8, he discussed the situation with his Flag-Captain, J. C. Leach, and Captain Tennant of the Repulse. Phillips described his plan to raid the Japanese convoys near Singora, off the coast of Siam, and off the northern Malayan port of Kota Bharu, where, after fierce fighting, a British force had been defeated. "All were unanimous", a secret Admiralty enquiry later revealed, "that it was impossible for the Navy to do nothing while the Army and the Air Forces were being driven back", and that the plan for a sudden raid on Japanese lines of communication, "though hazardous, was acceptable".

The main hazard was a Japanese air attack on the battleships, from Japanese air bases in and around Saigon. But at the conference on December 8, the current "cloudy and rainy weather" seemed to lessen that danger.

There was yet another reason which encouraged Phillips to accept the hazards of going into action. As the senior surviving staff officer on the Prince of Wales reported six weeks later, the Commander-in-Chief "relied on the speed and surprise of the battleship attack to avoid damage to those ships, believing that the Japanese aircraft would not be carrying anti-ship bombs and torpedoes, and that the force on retirement would only have to deal with hastily organized long-range bombers from bases in Indo-China".

Such were the arguments in favour of action rather than withdrawal. In London, however, Churchill and his advisers came to a more cautious conclusion. At 10 pm on December 9, at an emergency meeting in the Cabinet room, Churchill put forward two suggestions. One was that the ships "should vanish into the ocean wastes and exercise a vague menace", acting as "rogue elephants". The other was that they should go across the Pacific "and join the remnants of the American fleet". No decision reached, except to "reconsider the problem in the morning light." By morning light it was too late. At Singapore, Phillips had already decided on action, and set off northwards.

As his two battleships, together with their four destroyers, steamed northwards towards the Siamese ports, the weather cleared. At that moment a Japanese spotter aircraft located them. Phillips at once decided that the risk was unacceptable, and abandoned the operation, setting course at high speed southwards for Singapore.

But that midnight, as the Prince of Wales steamed south, Phillips received a signal from Singapore that Japanese forces had landed half-way down the Malayan coast, at Kuantan. He at once decided to attack them.

His reasoning was recalled six weeks later by his senior surviving staff officer. First, Kuantan lay four hundred miles from the Japanese airfields in Indo-China. Second, Kuantan was "a key military position which every effort must be made to defend". Third, the Japanese spotter aircraft had last located his ship in the latitude of Singora, steaming *northwards*. The Japanese would not therefore expect his force to be so far south. Surprise at Kuantan was thus probable, and the risk, in his view, justified.

By one in the morning of December 10 Phillips had turned his ships towards Kuantan. Soon after daylight, however, one of his force's destroyers, the Express, which had gone ahead, reached the harbour, found no sign of the Japanese, and rejoined the admiral. Kuantan being still in British hands, Phillips prepared to continue his southward course to Singapore.

But before he did so, at seven o'clock that morning, time was spent searching for some tugs, barges and junks in convoy which had been sighted earlier. Thinking that these might be motor landing-craft intended for a landing at Kuantan, Captain Tennant of the Repulse decided to examine them. Phillips agreed.

Simultaneously, an aircraft was sighted, but it was not identified as either enemy or friendly. Four hours later, at ten to eleven, the Repulse radar picked up aircraft on its screen, and ten minutes later these same aircraft came into sight: eighty-four Japanese bombers in all.

This large air fleet had already flown as far south as Singapore in search of the two British battleships. Having sighted nothing, it was returning to its base in Indo-China on a northerly course. Entirely by chance, its pre-arranged flight path led the force straight over its quarry.

The first bombs fell shortly after eleven in the morning, when the Repulse broke radio silence to inform Singapore of the attack.

The Japanese bombers attacked in wave after wave for an hour and a half. At 12.33 pm the Repulse turned over and sank. The Prince of Wales capsized and sank at 1.20 pm. Six hundred officers and men were drowned, including Phillips and Leach. More than two thousand sailors were rescued by the four destroyers.

Fighter aircraft, sent from Singapore as a result of the message from the Repulse, reached the scene only in time to witness the Prince of Wales go under.

When the news of the sinking of the two battleships reached London, Churchill was in bed working on official papers. He was told the news over the telephone. "I was thankful to be alone", he later recalled. "In all the war I never received a more direct shock."

And yet, with the United States at last in the war, and with both Germany and Italy having declared war on her, even disaster seemed quickly to fall into a less tragic perspective, and on December 12 Churchill telegraphed to Roosevelt: "I am enormously relieved at the turn world events have taken." Not only relief, but hope; for, as Churchill told Eden, America's entry into the war "makes amends for all, and with time and patience will give certain victory".

Martin Gilbert is at present writing the Second World War volume of the Churchill biography, and would welcome any personal recollections of Churchill during the war years, which should be sent to him at Merton College, Oxford.





The attack on Pearl Harbor; and Churchill and Roosevelt on board the Prince of Wales.

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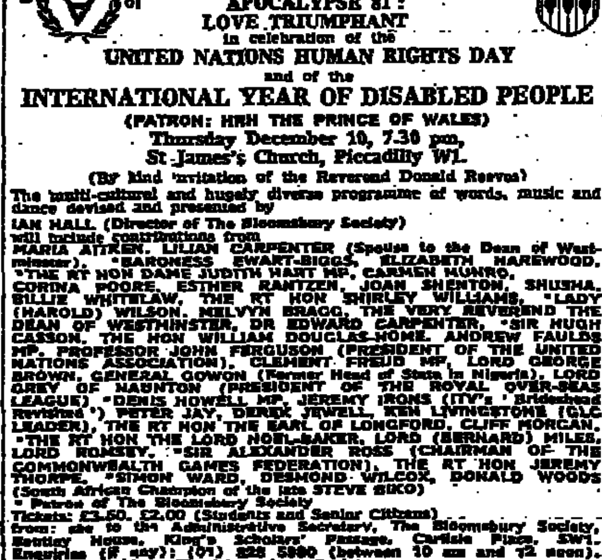
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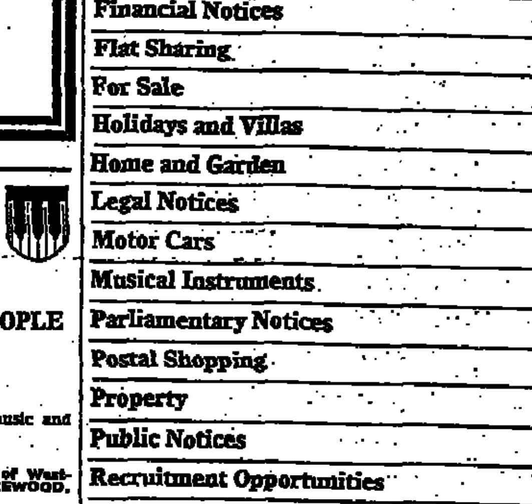
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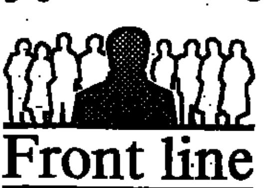
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David Byrne

The many-sided rock musician in the Bowie/Lennon mould, whose ballet music for the Catherine Wheel appears on record this week.

The propped electric guitar, the video machine and the photographic prints strewn over part of the uncarpeted floor barely disturb the symmetry and stillness of David Byrne's apartment. A large grey and white cube on the first floor of what was until recently a factory, it could pass as an annexe to one of the countless modern art galleries which surround it in SoHo, Manhattan's downtown, up-market artists' ghetto. Byrne has designed his living space with the understated fastidiousness also apparent in his clothes, which are dark and quiet, and his speech, which is punctuated by pauses as he searches for the precise response.

Such care ought not to be a surprise. As a former art student working in the field of pop music, Byrne is as prone to self-conceptualization as any member of the strain which probably began with John Lennon and has included David Bowie, Pete Townshend, Bryan Ferry and Joe Strummer, all of whom either attended art school or spent their formative years hanging around the fringes



Front line

of that freewheeling world. In Britain, where the collective contribution of art students to the development of rock music has long been acknowledged, they and their peers brought about a fascinating and constructive expansion of available working methods, most notably introducing the modes marked "eclectic" and "ironic".

Byrne is an exception in this company because, although he was born in Dumbarton 29 years ago, he has lived since childhood in America, where the art schools have exerted a much smaller influence—mostly, he thinks, because they are financially less accessible to working-class people, which would have disqualified Lennon and Ferry, at least, had they grown up across the Atlantic. So it was natural that Byrne's group, the Talking Heads, whose three original members met at the Rhode Island School of Design, should have received their early recognition in Europe, where their reputation has grown steadily since their first visit in 1977.

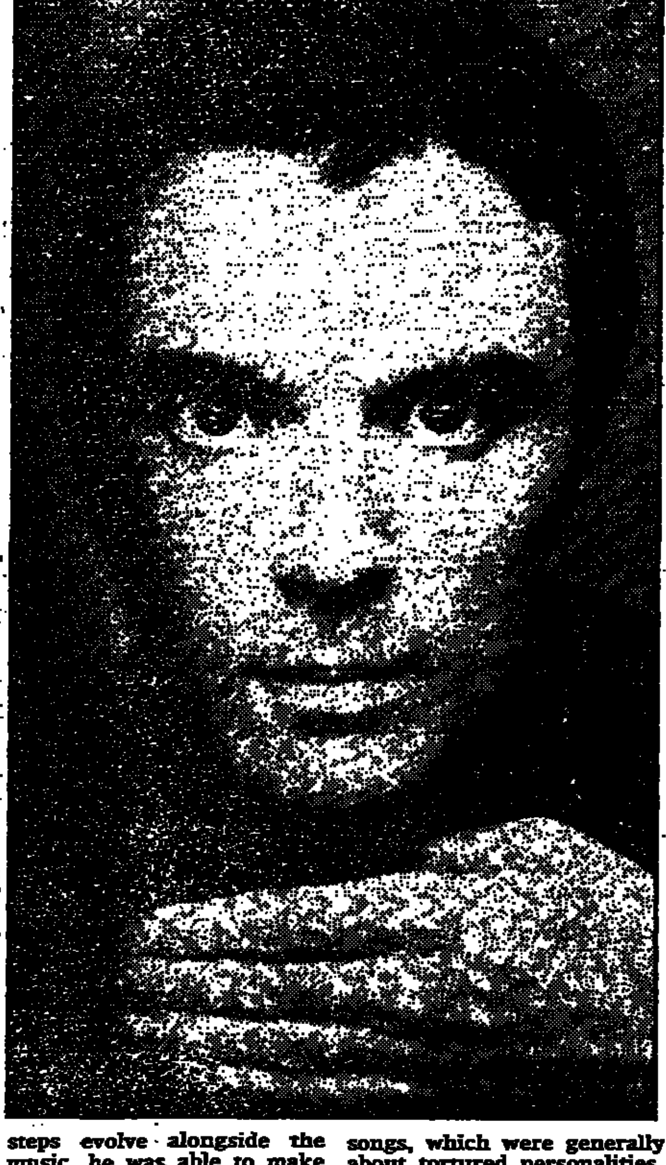
His fine art studies, albeit uncompleted, certainly provided an appropriate background for Byrne's recent collaborations with the English rock theoretician Brian Eno, another former art student, and with the American choreographer Twyla Tharp.

With Brian Eno's assistance, Byrne steered the Talking Heads away from their rather severe, neurotic stance and into the realms of dance music, adducing African and Afro-American rhythms alongside Byrne's oblique but always stimulating lyrics. Together, the group, the pair also produced an album called *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*, a controversial work which placed the "found voices" of preachers, politicians and singers from other cultures within densely layered arrangements featuring electronics and dance rhythms.

Byrne's most ambitious project, however, has been the music for a 75-minute ballet called *The Catherine Wheel*, recently given a dozen well-received performances on Broadway by Twyla Tharp's company. An obvious extension of the Byrne/Eno recordings, the music appears this week in edited form on an album and will shortly be available in its entirety on cassette.

Perched on one of Byrne's few pieces of furniture, Twyla Tharp explained that the ballet germinated when her company began rehearsing to records by the Talking Heads, and when Byrne came to see a performance of other works in Los Angeles. The company is noted for its use of popular music (particularly that of the Beach Boys in *Deuce Coupe*) but this was the first time that she had been able to commission new music, rather than working with existing records or scores. *The Catherine Wheel* was therefore an expensive proposition; now that it is established in the repertoire — although it may prove too elaborate to perform in next year's British tour — she hopes to recover some of the outlay by making a videotape for lease to television.

Byrne composed and assembled the music, usually alone, at night in the recording studio; by day he presented the work-in-progress to the choreographer, receiving suggestions: "Make it more aggressive and obnoxious here' — that kind of thing." By watching the steps evolve alongside the music, he was able to make adjustments.



"I was thinking about how music and dance could be put together in a collaborative way, rather than starting with one and adding the other," Byrne says. "I studied the way the dancers worked, and in turn Twyla became interested in the process of making the music. She noticed the way the sounds are layered and manipulated by overdubbing, and she was able to incorporate that into the dance by using movable screens and by positioning groups of dancers in shadow behind other groups. So one medium affected the other right the way through."

One of four groups who can be said to have invented the New York New wave in the middle Seventies (the others were Blondie, the Ramones and Television), the Talking Heads have made calculated but courageous aesthetic leaps whenever their music has seemed in danger of growing stale. The latest took place last year, when they recorded and toured with five auxiliary musicians added to the basic quintet. The concerts clearly had a profound effect on Byrne, whose customary anguished stance almost completely disappeared, replaced by a relaxation which even permitted the occasional smile.

"Yes, I was very pleased about that. It had always seemed to me that there was a contradiction between our songs, which were generally about tortured personalities, and our enjoyment of performance. The last tour provided a solution. I felt I had broken through. In fact at some performances I felt ecstatic, as if the music had suddenly fallen into place, the pieces locking together, and as if this communicated itself to the audience."

After several months spent pursuing individual projects — the drummer Chris Frantz and the bassist Tina Weymouth with their successful Tom Tom Club records, the multi-instrumentalist Jerry Harrison with a solo album — the Talking Heads are now reunited, preparing an LP of live tapes from various stages of their career. The retrospective nature of this task, Byrne said, will help shape their aesthetic in 1982, but he cannot be more specific than a suggestion that the music will be different, and that it will restore some of the minor losses which have accompanied the big gains in the group's evolution.

"Right from the beginning, we've been careful about each step that we've taken," he concluded. "Now it seems as though we're in a position where we can practically do whatever we like. We can make all these different kinds of records, or I can go off and make videos, or whatever. It seems pretty ideal to me. The only drawback is that there isn't time for everything you want to do."

Richard Williams

Diary quiz

The answers to these questions on the week's news will appear in Monday's Diary

1. Who was named centre forward?
2. What's likely to become a *museum piece*?
3. A divided meal?
4. Where were the flames of protest fanned?
5. Which bank announced an interesting move this week?
6. The East is Red?
7. Who admitted his theories had been wrong?
8. What will disappear in a puff of smoke?
9. Who predicted a long slow climb ahead?
10. In what context was it said this week that war-war had achieved more than jaw-jaw?
11. Who asked for extra time?
12. What was the theatrical sale of the century?
13. Who made a cunning move?





I'll be awarding another bottle of champagne to the reader who sends in the best caption to this picture of Princess Margaret, not looking for a job, but visiting a Job Centre in Liverpool last Thursday. Entries, on a postcard please, to Peter Watson, Times Diary, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EX to arrive not later than first post on Thursday.

Robots are not the turn on we're always told, at least not for our readers. So from a much smaller post-bag this week I've chosen R. Marson of Nottingham as runner-up with "Yes Minister, you'll be quite safe at Sussex University like that," and J. Birks of Darenth, Kent, as winner with "Take me to your ladder!"

New York/John Heilpern

Great acting, pity about the play

This week, there are three major Broadway openings representing the essential ingredients of any and every Broadway season. Namely, the star vehicle — the all-American million-dollar musical — and what might be called the class act, which is the inevitable Pulitzer Prize winning play.

The appearance of Katharine Hepburn in *The West Side Waltz*, the star vehicle written by Ernest Thompson, is no different in its way to the appearance of Elizabeth Taylor in *Little Foxes* or to Claudette Colbert, still going strong, in *A Talent for Murder*. On such occasions, the public does not go to see the play, but to worship the legend around whom the entire proceedings are built. The play itself is the last thing to worry about.

As with almost all star vehicles, the only test is how the star manages to rise above the material. In Katharine Hepburn's case, miraculously. "Possibly the most dishonest, stupid, and insufferable play it has been my misfortune to sit through", wrote one New York critic of *The West Side Waltz* and, although impolite, he was right. Without exception, every New York critic roundly clobbered the author while praising Miss Hepburn to the skies. There's the message: the baser the material, the higher the star also rises.

Miss Hepburn plays a partially deaf and ultimately crippled pianist named, if you please, Margaret Mary Elderdice. Margaret Mary Elderdice also plays the piano of an evening accompanied by her lonely spinster neighbour, an amateur violinist, who is named Cara Varnum. They mime duets together, at least they do on stage. At the end of six duets and six scenes, Miss Hepburn has to repeat exactly the same curtain line, which is: "Now we're cooking!".

Mr Thompson, who also wrote *On Golden Pond*, another burnt offering concerning the sentimentalized problems of old age (soon to be released as a film with Hepburn and Henry Fonda), here tries even to contain his star physically — and fails. Miss Hepburn progresses zestfully through each scene, first with a limp, then with a cane, then two canes, next with a walker, and finally in a wheelchair in which she zooms around the stage, giving the impression she would prefer to be on rollerskates.

Nothing will stop her — not Mr Thompson's sexual innuendos or his tasteless jokes about gays and flashers — his stabs at wit: "Are you a communist?" "No, I'm a Libra." Or indeed his mighty thoughts about life: "Human beings are not meant to be alone." "If you want something in life you have to go out and get it", etc.

No, Miss Hepburn rises above all this silliness because there is just enough in the highly independent, indomitable old character she plays to *remind* the audience of Miss Hepburn herself. It is what Brendan Gill calls "a feat of surgico-dramaturgic cloning": her role is an approximate clone of Miss Hepburn's outspoken, beautiful, 72-year-old Yankee self. It is the secret of the star vehicle, and of course Miss Hepburn knows this. She plays herself, regardless.

Mr James M. Nederlander, one of the two most powerful theatre owners and producers in America — the other is the Shubert Organization — gave his philosophy of mounting Broadway shows the other day. "Being a theatre owner means you're really in the moving business", he said. "You move 'em in, you move 'em out..."

So it was that Mr Nederlander, like the wagon train leaders of old, yelled "move 'em out" to the cast of the new Hal Prince-Stephen Sondheim musical, *Merrily we Roll Along*. After two opening night postponements, a change of leading man, a new choreographer, and last-minute re-writes and songs, this troubled $1,500,000 show closed after 16 performances. The golden team of Prince and Sondheim (*A Little Night Music*, *Sweeny Todd*, *Company*) produced a dud.

Merrily We Roll Along was loosely based on a Broadway curiosity piece, the 1934 Kaufman-Hart play of the same name, (which was its first mistake). The gimmick is that the story is told backwards — like Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* — in this case from 1980 to 1955: people were glancing at their programmes muttering, "thank God, only 15 years to go".

The story (book by George Furth) was all too familiar. A successful man — a composer — looks back on his life to discover that success and riches are empty, and wonders what happened to the good old idealistic days of youth when fame didn't mean anything — "not much it didn't" — when everyone loved each other and *believed*, in what? Success of course. Perhaps the immensely successful Prince and Sondheim are trying to tell us something about themselves, though they have said it all before in *Follies*, which had an identical theme to *Merrily We Roll Along*.

It is the central conception of their latest musical that was so surprisingly ill-conceived. The young cast actually remains young throughout the entire 25 — year span of the plot. They wear T-shirts labelled "ex-wife", ex-ex wife", "agent", "secretary", like Victorian emblems. Not a single character changes or develops for there was no characterization save the obvious showbiz cliches. Cute at 45=cute at 20.

There was no feel for the period or awareness of changing social contents. The action took place in a kind of no-man's land. The seventies looked and sounded the same as the fifties.

The skimpy high-tech set appeared to be borrowed from another Prince-Sondheim musical, *Company*. The choreography, by Larry Fuller, was negligible. There was not one imaginative piece of staging from Hal Prince, who again repeated his familiar closely packed groupings from *Evita*. Mr Sondheim, incredibly for him, failed to produce even one memorable song. Like Mr Prince, it seems that he has begun to imitate himself.

In what has been a disappointing season for Broadway, *Merrily We Roll Along* came as the biggest shock so far. It is left to Michael Bennett (of *A Chorus Line*) to pick up the flag with his new musical, *Dream Girls*, opening and eagerly awaited on Broadway at Christmas. If it is about the pain of success and wealth all we ordinary folk can do is to take a deep breath, repeat "now we're cooking!" six times, and try to cope with our humble lives as best we can.

Finally, and briefly, Both Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Crimes of the Heart*, is a genuine Broadway success and much admired. Furthermore, it is the 29-year-old Ms Henley's first play.

Set in the South, where she was born and raised, her black comedy grows out of the grotesque Southern humour tradition of Eudora Welty and Flannery O'Connor. I regret it left me mostly cold. Accompanied by several British actors enjoying a day off from Broadway, I assumed that because we all shared the same bewilderment, we were suffering from a serious culture gap.

Where the critics saw high seriousness underlying Miss Henley's bizarre play, I could not see it. When they talked of her comedy "heightening reality to illuminate the landscape of human existence in all its mean absurdity", I saw unbelievable "characters" whose lives were a mere farce. I could see only Southern "types", like a cartoon.

But alone among the major New York critics, Walter Kerr, the doyen of them all, later offered the one dissenting opinion. While he admired the actresses involved, he wrote that "I also found myself, rather too often and in spite of everything, disbelieving — simply and flatly *disbelieving*". At which I found myself, in the context of Ms Henley's otherwise acclaimed play, simply and flatly relieved.



Katherine Hepburn: ebullient geriatric

Opera/John Higgins

Time for pantomime

The Bartered Bride

Palace Theatre, Manchester

Up, up and away in a beautiful balloon is not the way Marenka and Jenik usually quit the stage at the end of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. But thus they go in Steven Pimlott's production for Opera North, which has just opened in Manchester after a preview in Hull. Presumably he has one eye on that Christmas season fast approaching and *The Bride* has never been short of pantomime elements.

The highlight of the last act is certainly the arrival of the circus in town, by that same balloon, complete in Manchester with knife-throwers, fire-eaters and Smetana's American bear (*amerikansky medved*), presumably less often encountered in Bohemia than the Russian species. And there is of course Jenik's wicked step-mother, a pantomime figure if ever there was one, who threw him out of the house to get the minimal plot rolling.

Steven Pimlott's production is bright, brash and busy. He has his characters making omelettes and tackling the washing up when they are not involved in one of those marvellously invigorating dances Smetana composed in honour of the Czech Saint's Day when it all takes place.

Stefanos Lazaridis has devised an equally bright set, more imaginative than brash, of a village square surrounded by houses with wooden, slatted roofs, not unlike the designs for the earliest recorded productions of *The Bride*. Two interiors, as realistically cluttered as a Moscow Arts Theatre staging of Chekhov, slide on and off the stage. It is all very evocative, although it does inhibit the dancing, which anyhow could do with a bit more attention, particularly the *Furiant*.

Opera North field two strong tenors as the half-brothers, Jenik and Vasek. Arthur Davies's Jenik has a good sheen to the top of his voice, particularly in the Act II aria when all the hustle on *stage is stilled for a moment*. Justin Lavender turns in a sharp characterization of the stuttering ninny Vasek, one of Smetana's less agreeable portraits; he has been doing a lot of cover work for Opera North, but on this showing he will be moving up shortly to the number one *spot*. Eric Garrett's Kecal is too rough at the moment, dry of voice and poor of diction; the late Howell Glynne was a master of this role, putting a taste of viciousness into the marriage broker who would sell anything for a few crowns. A chance missed of inserting a villain into the panto.

Marie Slorach plays up the minx in Marenka. She takes a little time to adjust her soprano to the house, as she did at the Wexford Festival a few weeks back, but like her Jenik she took her aria excellently when it came.

Opera North's orchestra sounds much better than when I last heard it. David Lloyd-Jones's conducting is strong on vigour and attack, light on humour and the feeling of joy bubbling over which turned *The Bartered Bride* from an opera into a Czech national symbol.

Steven Pimlott's travelling circus plays in Manchester on December 9 and 11 and then moves into the repertory for the Christmas season at the Grand, Leeds.

Theatre/Ned Chaillet

Immortal Children

Railway Children

Haymarket, Basingstoke

Children are interchangeable, according to the traditions of the stage and Actor's Equity. That means that on the night I saw the show, the railway children went by the names of Alison Desbois, Keres Dingwall, and Nicholas Irons. On alternating nights they are called Rebecca Bridge, Caitlin Chidgy, and William Keen. E. Nesbit called them Bobbie (for Roberta), Phyllis and Peter, and bare minutes after introducing them in their happy suburban life, she deprived them of father, sending him to prison and them to the country, where they waved at passing trains.

More than that, they saved one passing train from destruction by waving red petticoats to warn the driver before he hit a landslide. In the musical version at the Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke, they take a fairly original approach by waving and shouting from the far side of the landslide, which would be a marginally safer place to stand.

The truth is, the Haymarket does not offer much in the way of technical facilities to the resident Horseshoe Company and they still achieve some surprisingly genial effects, including a steaming locomotive that only threatens to knock down the rural station.

Geniality is also present in full measure among the adult members of the company, with a singing porter (Keith Bartlett) and hoofing engine driver (Nicholas Blane) and an old gentleman (Jack Lynn) who contrived to make rural exile a nicer place while the eldest girl strives to prove her father's innocence.

An old-fashioned story seems to require old-fashioned songs, but those provided by Peter Durrent, with lyrics from the dramatist David Baron, tend to appear as just so many abrupt halts to the story. They offer little in the way of character development; rather a kind of restatement of the obvious. Suddenly the father is taken away and Joy Turpin, as the mother, sings a song called "Suddenly". Luckily they are not all as anthropomorphic as the one which promises children they will "make friends in every field and stream".

Tony Craven and Brian Stirner direct the production, which is diverting enough to show the book's attractions and suitability for musical adaption but unlike Lecester's *Gypsy*, it is hardly built to last. Firmer musical hands might well turn the story into a holiday staple.

Dance/John Percival

Illuminations

Covent Garden

It is easy to understand how almost all reviewers, including my predecessor in this seat, erred when Federick Ashton's *Illuminations* was previousl given at Covent Garden in 1950. Audiences were not ready theb for a ballet that made its points by swift allusions and metaphores, nor for one which shows a poet as anarchist, or a man after profane love wiping himself and going to the lavatory. Ashton, ahead of his time, regarded dance as an art form as serious as plays or films, and with as wide a scope.

The Royal Ballet's new production, first given at Covent Garden last night, does full justice to the marvellously imaginative collaboration of Ashton and Cecil Beaton (to whom the revival is dedicated) with Britten's setting of prose-poems from *Les IIlluminations*.n Rimbaud's life provides the key to this wild side-show, as the cardinal phrase in the text puts it. Innocence and corruption, adolescent revolt and a turbulent inspiration exist, not as opposites, but as simultaneous and miraculously reconciled experiences along his road to eath and immortality.

Ashley Page, who also bings a sinuous and submerged passion to a fine revival of Robbin's *Afternoon of a Faun* (with the touchingly rumpled Bryony Brind as his nymphette classmate), is the star of the evening. He consentrates on the vehemence of the Poet, even when trying to hurl handfuls of stars into the night sky, and lets the beauty speak for itself.

Genesia Rosato's abandon as Profane Love also rivals distant memories of the original cast, and if Jennifer Penney has not yet found the full serenity imlicit in Sacred Love, she moves through the part with calm grace. All praise, also, for the playing of the music under a guest conductor, Robert Irving, and to Robert Tear's understanding of the vocal line even though perhaps not quite back in full voice.

Full comment on the evening's other premiere, a new production of dances from *Napoli*, staged by Kirdten Ralov from Copenhagen, must wait another occasion. But the dances themselves are welcome back into the repertory, even if some of the dancing lacks he gusto of other recent productions, and the elaborate new setting and biliously coloured costumes by Richard Beer are as hideous as they are unnecessary. The casting at least allows the younger dancers a chance for once, and for the sake of *Illuminations* the programme must be seen anyway.

Teleview/Elkan Allan

They kid you not

Should you wish to embarrass a senior member of an ITV programme contractor or the IBA itself, bring up the question of children's programmes. They know that their record has been lamentable; that the programmes they are still offering are rotten; that they have short-changed the children of Britain over the years, particularly in programme timing; and all they can splutter by way of defence is that they are conscious of their defects and are looking actively into the matter.

They all devoutly wish the subject could go away for a year or two until their recently formed children's sub-committee could come up with proposals that might be translated into action, but it has recently been pushed to the centre of attention by a unilateral statement by TVS.

Television South, to give the new contractors for the extended Southern region their full name, announced that, as sooon as they take over on Jauary 1, they will extend children's time in their region by 15 minutes. Their first attempt to cater for a young audience is to be a Monday-to-Thursday slot for older children about a local radio station, to be called *Radio*.

"Although we are newcomers to ITV — Indeed, perhaps because we *are* new — we feel very strongly that it's time ITV children's programmes took on a new look", says the station's Head of Children's Programmes, Anna Home, a recruit from the BBC, where she produced *Grange Hill* and all junior drama.

"While the BBC has expanded its range over the years, ITV has shrunk. There is no overall pattern, no philosophy. So we have taken the bit between our teeth".

Anna Home has a powerful ally in Colin Shaw, the IBA's Director of Television and, some say, favourite soon to succeed Sir Brian Young as Director-General. He told me: "I find myself saddened that ITV hasn't been able to match BBC children's programmes, which are one of the glories of British television.

"The companies have not paid the kind of attention to this area of programming that they have to others. They have allowed the initiative to pass to the BBC to an unacceptable extent." This is clearly seen in the ratings, which on some evenings are 80-20 in the BBC's favour.

This is hardly surprising when Thames persists with *The Sooty Show*, after all these years; Westward is allowed to network an undistinguished nature series, *Country Camera*; ATV can trot out its unpleasant failure, *The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist*, for a repeat showing; and Granada can get away with endless undistinguished pop shows, currently *Get It Together*. These were the main children's fare on recent evenings.

In an effort to stem the tide of rubbish, the IBA recently held a breast-beating weekend at Cambridge. "There was a general recognition of just how abysmally they had been performing," according to Colin Shaw. He sees some imminent improvement but no real revolution before 1983.

In my view, we can expect nothing more than cosmetic touches until the companies abandon their outrageously greedy annexation of the 5.15-5.45 pm slot for what are euphemistically called "family" programmes.



Anna Home: time for a new deal for kids

While the BBC offers informative, as well as entertaining programmes for youngsters, starting from 3.55 with the repeat of *Play School*, until the News at 5.40, ITV now squashes what it does provide for children into an advertisement-interrupted hour between 4.15 and 5.15.

At 5.15, when schoolchildren with longer journeys are only just settling down to their tea, my local station, Anglia, are now screening three repeats of situation comedies and two tepid "family" game-shows. Nothing stimulating and nothing specifically for youngsters, unlike the rival BBC1.

The reason for this flight from ITV's responsibility is, simply, economic. Children are a poor market for advertisers, but if you screen soap operas for their mothers, you can attract Daz and Nimble and the rest of the housewife-orientated advertisers. In America, there is virtually no "kidvid" any more; it's all "kidult" now — which means cartoons and moronic sitcoms.

John Hambley, until recently Head of Children's Programmes at Thames and still chairman of the Network Children's Committee, led the attack on his employers at the 1980 Edinburgh Television Festival:

"Eighty per cent of children's programmes are entertainment, much of it designed to attract adults while being merely 'suitable' for children ... Children are the most neglected and worst abused 'minority' (actually they comprise a quarter of the total audience) ... We must make fewer programmes which blindly and cheaply regurgitate the tastes for banal imports and second-rate pop shows that we have helped to foster."

Since then, he thinks, he may have helped to halt the decline, if not actually improve matters. He sees his recent introduction of such short, imaginative serials as *Stig of the Dump* as a step forward.

But there is a long way to go. If the present franchise-holders wish to justify their lucrative licences, they have to stop selling Britain's youth short. One reason TVS won its franchise was because it promised to devote more time and money to children's programmes. Those who did not lose their licenses last time round should take note.

Radio/David Wade

Going down a bomb

As a radio dramatist (he is also and for his livelihood a producer of marvellously observant television documentaries) Don Haworth has given his listeners a lot of pleasure and some pain. Plays like *We all Come to it in the End* or *There's No Point in Arguing the Toss* celebrated in a tone of high Northern colloquial articulacy the great oddity of things — working as a Santa Claus in a department store, trying to get Dad's corpse back home by public transport; or in a different vein there was the brilliant little allegory of *On a Day in Summer in a Garden*.

These and others, on the face of it as unlikely to take off and stay airborne as any space probe, in fact went effortlessly into orbit. But there have been a number of occasions when the miracle signally failed to occur. We would then witness the author as it were rushing towards the cliff edge with wings flapping energetically, only to plummet into the sea below. When this has happened it has often seemed to be because he was trying to force a repeat of what succeeded in the past. But commonly when he has tried some quite new approach, then we have seen him take off once more.

Certainly this is what he did with *Talk of Love and War* (Radio 3, November 29) where, turning his back on the bizarre and the allegorical, he gave us an extended conversation between Tom and James, two young bomber pilots of the Second World War which was authentic not only — and as far as I am able to judge — in its recreation of time and place, but without question as a statement of human experience.

Briefly, the talk charted James's love affair with Gwynneth and its painful collapse, the girl still bound by a sense of obligation to her first husband, himself a pilot lost over the North Atlantic. Thus death triumphed over life, you might conclude, but that would be to put the matter with a portentousness of which the play was innocent.

This was a personal tragedy and one made more poignant by the author's sensitivity and skill. Not only did he convey the closeness of the understanding between these two young men, but by the unforced use of contemporary slang did so in a context in which for those living in it any day might be their last. The acting by William Nighy and Hugh Ross could not have been more sympathetic and Richard Wortley's production was notable for its use of silence.

Maureen Duffy's *Only Goodnight* (Radio 4, November 27; director David Spenser), a first play for radio by an established novelist, was set principally in the memory of Edith Somerville (of Somerville and Ross) looking back from the edge of her own death to the days when her cousin and dear collaborator, Violet Martin (alias Ross), was still alive.

How well the play suggested the delight in one another's company which these two had felt and the emptiness of Edith's life since Violet died; and in sketching the background of Irish life in the early decades of this century, Ms Duffy showed a natural grasp of radio technique.

The novel translated into radio is doing famously in the form of Olivia Manning's *The Levant Trilogy* (final part next Monday, Radio 4, 8 pm; highly recommended). But in case the world of radio drama should appear to be without blemish, I must draw attention to last Saturday's Russian import, *The Irony of Fate*. This comedy of accidents may have had a funny line or uproarious situation in it somewhere, but I couldn't find it and nor, to judge by the desperate energy with which they went at it, could Glyn Dearman's cast.

Collectors' Diary/Geraldine Norman

Pictures from a gentleman's past

□ People are always "finding" things in the attic, but Karen Addenbrooke must hold the record for quantity at least. She found more than 300 paintings by an eighteenth-century ancestor. His name is William George Jennings (1763-1854) and 200 of the paintings are being exhibited by the Krios Gallery, 305 Brompton Road, until December 12. They are mostly gouaches, though there is the occasional watercolour and oil on paper, and the prices range from £30 to £100.

Little appears to be known of Jennings except that he was a gentleman of means, visiting the Continent on the Grand Tour, staying at the country residences of some of the leading families of the day and keeping in touch with the culture of the metropolis. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in eight of the years between 1797 and 1806 but appears to have had no need to sell his paintings.

His passion was for landscape and sketching, and he clearly worked busily, mainly in the country round London, though with occasional expeditions further afield. It is the topographical element that makes his sketches particularly fascinating. Hampstead and Highgate — still charming rural villages — are constant subjects. There is a distant view of Kilburn with a drover and cattle in the foreground, Blackheath, Gravesend...

The works are of good amateur or minor professional standard, of considerable charm and extremely cheap at an average of £50 apiece.

□ How about teapots for Christmas? Dan Klein of the Halkin Arcade, London, SW1, opens an exhibition titled "Teapots Past and Present" on December 8; prices run from £10 to £500.

Klein has commissioned teapots from some of the leading contemporary potters. Nick Homoky has come up with bizarre flattened sculptures of teapot outline (£150-£200). Richard Slee and his wife, Diana Gill, have gone for size, producing respectively a fruit still life with banana spout and an abstract cabbage (around £100 each).

Dame Edna Everage has found a "clever little Australian", Suzanne Forsyth Hatch, to do her a portrait pot of arresting ugliness.

There are "antiques" such as Art Deco racing-car and aeroplane teapots (£50-£80) and the Foley Art Pottery "Lord Salisbury" (£200). And there are "fantasy pourers" in current commercial production such as the "Margaret Thatcher" and the "Corgi and Bess."

□ Alan Thomas, the London book dealer, has received an unprecedented accolade for his seventieth birthday. His clients, librarians, bibliographers and private collectors, have combined to write a book about him, his triumphant "finds" and their triumphant purchases.

Entitled *Fine Books and Book Collecting*, it has a foreword by Lawrence Durrell — Alan Thomas has been his friend and bibliographer for 50 years. There follow contributions from 33 happy clients, writing about the major or minor treasures Thomas found for them. Among the library contributors are the Bibliothèque Royale in Brussels and the Humanities Research Centre at the University of Texas. The private collectors include Sir Karl Popper, the philosopher, Sir Robert Birley, the former headmaster of Eton, and others from as far afield as Toshiyuki Takamiya of Japan.

Janet Backhouse of the British Library writes on the book Thomas himself considers the greatest he has handled. It is a copy of the first edition of the *Book of St Albans* marked up with editorial changes as printer's copy for Wynkyn de Worde's edition of 1496; archaic or provincial language has been polished by the editor into modern metropolitan usage. It is the first, and so far only, known copy of a printed book used as printer's copy in the fiftieth century.

Edited by Christopher de Hamel of Sotheby's and Richard Linenthal of Bernard Quaritch, *Fine Books and Book Collecting* is published by James Hall, 2a Upper Grove Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, price £15.

□ Bonham's have organized a special auction next Thursday evening of sporting and livestock paintings aimed at tempting the farmers who are flooding into London for the Smithfield show.

It starts at 7 pm and as an extra lure a reception featuring wines from 18 English vineyards will be held at Bonham's before the sale begins. The wines have been donated by the winegrowers themselves to advertise their qualities; if you arrive on the dot of 5.30 pm and purchase a £4 catalogue you could probably sample all 18.

Cows and sheep make a particularly attractive showing among the paintings on offer. It is padded out with more conventional horses, dogs and game-birds, while poultry make a modest but attractive contribution. The paintings are mostly nineteenth century, with a few examples of the eighteenth and twentieth — prices mainly in the hundreds, but a few in the thousands. Viewing opens at 9 am on Monday.

□ The computer is forcing its way into the old-world collecting scene. Instead of setting off on a Saturday afternoon on an amble round the antique shops, collectors are now being urged to telephone Compute-Antique and find their treasures without stepping out of the house.

It is not quite as easy as that, of course. The computer contains a systematic listing of antiques available for sale in antique shops in London and around Great Britain. The dealers pay £5 an item for a description to be stored in the computer; members of the general public ring Compute-Antique and state what type of object they are looking for. They are told (without fee) the names and addresses of up to four antique shops which are offering items close to their description.

The system was launched earlier this autumn and 200 dealers have already fed 2,500 descriptons of exciting objects into the system. So far furniture, interior decoration (such as old fireplaces, mantelpieces), works of art, paintings and sculpture are listed; there are plans in hand to extend the system to cover silver, ceramics and other fields.

The number is 01-290 0033.

One of the paintings of livestock being sold by Bonham's to attract farmers in town to see the real thing

Bridge/Jeremy Flint

Going on the transfer list

Every year, to the horror of the purists, the dictionaries recognize the existence of some new words, and it is only a matter of time before they attain widespread acceptability. Even Fowler's most ardent disciple would probably concede that no single word could evoke the instant horror of "blitzkrieg," and only those who detest all gallicisms would pretend that fashionable or smart captures the full sense of "chic".

Bidding is no dead language, either. The rules and ethics committee of the English Bridge Union spends untold hours limiting the endless proliferation of new systems and coventions. Many years ago, S. J. Simon suggested the proper test to judge a new convention: does it deprive you of a useful natural bid, and does it work?

Undeniably *transfer bids* fulfil both these qualifications. The whole range of responses to INT is considerably enriched at the negligible cost of dispensing with 2♢ as a weak take-out.

Let me start with an example which demonstrates how transfer bids can solve an everyday problem. East-West are using a weak no trump. West opens INT and this is East's hand:

♠ Q4
♡ AJ764
♢ KQ9
♣ 874

Whether this hand will produce a game opposite a weak no trump must obviously depend on how well the hands fit. Many players would respond 3♡ hoping for the best. Here are three hands which West could hold to justify his opening bid of one no trump:

A. ♠ 1083
♡ KQ
♢ AJ1084
♣ K53

B. ♠ J2
♡ Q53
♢ J10842
♣ AKQ

C. ♠ AJ9
♡ 85
♢ AJ84
♣ Q653

On A, using standard methods, the bidding would be brief but ineffective.

West	East
1NT	3♡
3NT	No.

Unless the opponents were kind enough to lead a red suit, 3NT would fail by anything from one to five tricks. This would be the sequence using transfer bids.

West	East
1NT	2♢ (1)
2♡ (2)	2NT (3)
3♢ (4)	4♡ (5)
No	—

(1) Compelling West to rebid 2♡.
(2) West may exceptionally rebid 3♡ with four hearts and a maximum no trump.
(3) Notice the extra flexibility. East can paint an accurate picture of his hand, a balanced 11 or 12 points containing a five-card suit.
(4) West appreciates the strength of his doubleton ♡KQ and invites East to set the final contract. Of course it would be purposeless to show the diamonds unless West wanted his partner to make the final decision. His bid promises precisely two good hearts.
(5) East draws the correct inferences. If his hearts had been weaker he would have settled for 3NT.

Four hearts is an excellent contract which at worst depends on the position of the ♣A.

On B, standard methods would also prove inadequate. The sequence would be.

West	East
1NT	3♡
4♡	No

One too high

This would be the transfer sequence:

West	East
1NT	2♢
2♡	2NT
3♡ (1)	No

(1) West recognizes that his weakness in spades together with his three-card support for hearts will make the heart part score a safer contract.

On C, standard methods will produce an absurdly over-optimistic contract.

West	East
1NT	3♡
3NT	No

The transfer sequence is:

West	East
1NT	2♢
2♡	2NT
No	—

Even 2NT may be one too many.

Here is the full schedule of responses to 1NT using transfer bids.

2♣ — Stayman.
2♢ — transfer to 2♡.
2♡ — transfer to 2♠.
2♠ — transfer to 2NT.
2NT — transfer to 3♣.

Bids at the three level are natural and invitational, but not forcing. For those who like the simple life 2♠ can be used as a straightforward transfer to 2NT. For the sophisticated player the response of 2♠ is used to initiate a Baron sequence. The purpose of the 2NT response is two-fold. The simple and most frequent use is to allow the partnership to rest in 3♣ or 3♢. If after

West	East
1NT	2NT
3♣	

East bids 3♢, that bid is terminal, signifying a weak hand with at least six diamonds. More ambitious players may use the 2NT response to resolve a recurrent dilemma. Suppose you hold:

♠ A74
♡ 3
♢ AQ10764
♣ K53

Your partner opens 1NT to which you respond 3♢; unhelpfully, he rebids 3NT. What do you do now? If you pass he might well hold:

♠ KQ3
♡ J74
♢ K2
♣ A9872

so you go down in 3NT where 5♢ would present no problem. If you decide to press on to 5♢ you may find to your annoyance that his hand is

♠ J109
♡ KQ10
♢ KJ9
♣ QJ104

5♢ stands virtually no chance, whereas 3NT is ironclad. The 2NT transfer machinery allows you to judge instead of guessing. The sequence would start:

West	East
1NT	2NT
3♣	3♡

The bid of a major at the three level after this beginning says, "I have a singleton in the suit, but I have values for game, including a good six-card minor." It becomes the opener's responsibility to select the contract.

Iain Macleod once wrote "Bridge is an easy game". Surely all these complications are inconsistent with that assessment? But the tools are all important. No doubt Nicklaus and Watson would have played golf well with wooden shafted baffies and cleaks but, I venture to suggest, not quite so well.

Television/Dennis Hackett

Dreams of spinsterhood

It might be the cheese, as mother thinks, that makes Virginia Fly dream at night, but the dreams are by no means gastronomic, for in them Miss Fly sees herself being ravished by Charlie, her unseen, American pen-friend of 12 years, who, she believes, will one day put paid to her spinsterhood. Meanwhile she waits in her suburban backwater, mildly harassed by mother, affectionately supported by father, and teaches away during the day.

This harmless life is interrupted by television which is doing a programme on love before marriage and have somehow arrived at this spinster teacher as an ideal subject to interview, as it is plain that she hasn't had any love at all.

On television she confesses that she does imagine a seduction by a romantic cowherd, while walking "breast-high in buttercups". This tongue-in-cheek visualization is followed by the arrival of Charlie, more like a bull in a bedroom than a cowherd among buttercups, who removes Virginia's virginity and shows her pictures of his wife and children the morning after.

This is the setting for *Virginia Fly is Drowning*, a dramatization of the novel by Angela Huth on BBC2 last night. It started as a lightsome thing with many pleasurable stabs of wit and an excellent cast with the superb Anna Massey at its head.

Neither cast nor wit could quite sustain it after the denouement with Charlie. It might well have ended there but it went on to further sexual adventures before Miss Fly agrees to marry her constant companion, a widowed music professor who, charming as he is, she has never dreamt of as a ravisher nor, indeed, a passionate lover. It is this fate she regards as her drowning and not the previous unfortunate plunges.

Still, though it dragged a little, it had stimulating moments. Noel Dyson was excellent as the mother; Frank Mills established the prototype commuter father.

Bruce Boa rather overdid it all as Charlie: It was difficult to think that a man with such assault course ideas of seduction could ever have written an engaging letter. Mark Cullingham directed and the producer was Anne Head.

Chess/Harry Golombek

Dutch treats

The death in Amsterdam last week of Max Euwe, the former world champion reminds one of the outstanding part the Dutch have played in world chess. Amsterdam is the seat of the organisation of FIDE (the world chess federation); Dr Rueb, the very first FIDE President, was Dutch and no country has held more important chess events in this century than The Netherlands.

It is hard to determine why this should be, unless one believes in the boastful syllogism that chess is the playful pursuit of a civilized society and Holland, being one of the most-civilized countries in the world, has indulged and is continuing to indulge in the playing of more chess than any other country. An agreeable facet of this situation is the friendly rivalry between us and the Dutch over the last 100 years, a rivalry in which the predominance has passed to and fro and in which the Netherlanders have mostly held the advantage, though not perhaps of late.

At the first international tournament in Holland — in Amsterdam in 1889 — it was Amos Burn, an Englishman, who won first prize, ahead of the great Emanuel Lasker, and, in the next international event there ten years later, H. E. Atkins won first prize with the remarkable score of 15 wins from 15 games. In the 20th century, there was a series of international events in such cities as Amsterdam, Scheveningen and The Hague, in which Alexander Alekhine played the leading role. We held the first international team tournament, in London in 1927, but the next was held by the Dutch at The Hague in 1928.

The next great event in Holland was the 1938 AVRO tournament, a marvellous affair that included the world's strongest players and was won by Keres and Fine ahead of Botvinnik, Alekhine, Euwe, Reshevsky, Capablanca and Flohr.

In 1940 a series of winter tournaments sponsored by the Hoogoven firm started at Beverwijk. These are still being held at Wijk aan Zee not far from Beverwijk.

After the war the Dutch set the international ball rolling again by holding a great tournament at Groningen in 1946 that was won by Botvinnik. Another great landmark in the history of chess tournaments was the 1948 World Championship Match Tournament, the first part of which was held at The Hague and was won well by Botvinnik.

In the early 1960s another series of great tournaments commenced in Amsterdam, sponsored by the Dutch branch of the IBM firm, and containing a strong selection of grandmasters and masters. In contradistinction to the Hoogoven tournaments it was held in early summer. This year's tournament was announced as the last and it was surprising in that Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, whose final tournament it was before he embarked on his title defence at Merano, failed to win first prize, "only" coming second to the young Dutch grandmaster, Jan Timman.

Yet another addition to the series of great tournaments was a magnificent one known as the Interpolis and held in the autumn. The first, which was held in 1977, had the very high category of 14 and was won by Karpov, Tony Miles coming second. The world champion did not play in the 1978 event which was still category 14 and in which Lajos Portisch, the Hungarian champion, came first. But he played and came first in the next two, in 1979 and 1980, and these were of the astonishingly high category of 15. So too was the one held in October this year, even though it was without Karpov who was otherwise engaged at Merano where he was defending his title against Korchnoi.

In his absence, first prize went to Alexander Beljavsky with a score of 7½, followed by Petrosian 7, Portisch and Timman 6½, Ljubojevic 6, Andersson, Kasparov and Spassky 5½, Larsen and Sosonko 4½, Hubner 4 and Miles 3. The talented young Kasparov had been regarded as favourite for first prize; but for an 18-year-old player to tie for 6th place with a 50 per cent score in such company is still a major achievement.

Before I give a remarkable game he won against Larsen in this tournament, let me put myself right about the subscription to the Friends of Chess which, last week, I had said was £12 a year. It will be £12 next May but at present it is £8.

White: Beljavsky Black: Larsen Caro Kann Defence

	White	Black
1	P-K4	P-QB3
2	P-Q4	P-Q4
3	N-QB3	PxP
4	NxP	B-B4

Larsen used to play here 4...N-B3 and if then 5.NxN ch, NPxN with a risky counter-attacking type of game.

	White	Black
5	N-N3	B-N3
6	P-KR4	P-KR3
7	N-B3	N-Q2
8	P-R5	B-R2
9	B-Q3	BxB
10	QxB	KN-B3

More usual is 10...Q-B2, preparing to Castle Q.

	White	Black
11	B-B4	P-K3

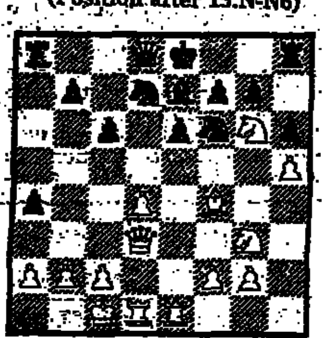
11...Q-R4 ch; 12.B-Q2, Q-B2 would get us back into the 10...Q-B2 line which is quite good for Black. However, White can play more sharply 12.P-QN4, a gambit which has some highly interesting possibilities.

	White	Black
12	0-0-0	B-K2
13	N-K5	P-R4
14	KR-K1	P-R5

An irresponsible or perhaps careless move that meets with immediate punishment. Correct was simply 14...0-0.

	White	Black
15	N-N6	

(Position after 15.N-N6)



A bolt from the deepest blue. If now Black takes the Knight then, after 15...PxN; 16.QxP ch, K-B1; 17.RxP, Q-K1; 18.Q-B5, Q-B2; 19.QR-K1, white has an overwhelming attack.

	White	Black
15	...	N-Q4
16	N-B5	B-B1

Neither 16... BPxN; 17.NxQ ch, K-B1; 18.NxP ch, nor 16... KPxN; 17.NxB, NxB; 18.NxQBP dis ch, K-B1; 19.Q-R3 ch will do for Black.

	White	Black
17	B-Q6	R-KN1
18	P-QB4	N(Q4)-N3
19	Q-KR3	BPxN
20	RxPch	K-B2
21	PxPch	KxR
22	R-K1ch	N-K4

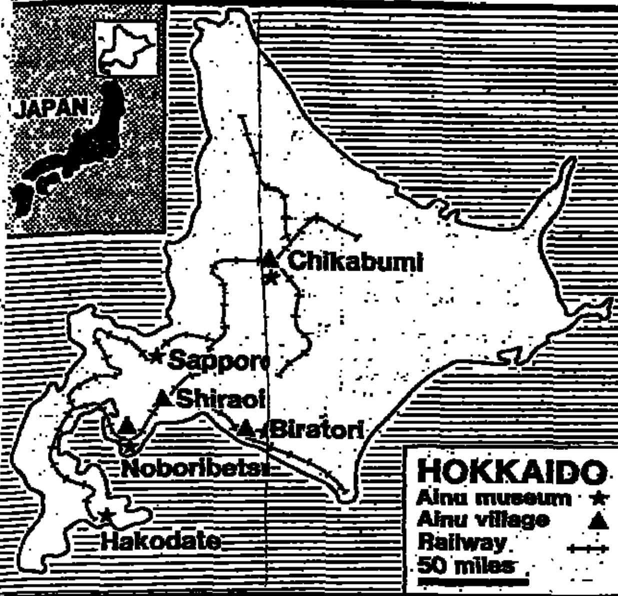
If 22...K-B3; 23.N-K7.

	White	Black
23	BxN	resigns.

Travel/edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Leslie Gardiner

Hokkaido bear-hug



Dressed in a coat of many colours, the young bear lumbers out of his cage and trots round the circle of spectators. The men tease him with bunches of grass and guide him with their poles. It's good-humoured enough. The bear, healthy and well-fed, has been the village pet for the past two years.

Next they put him on a long rope and pull him this way and that. Selected villagers fire blunt arrows at him, not to hurt but to tire him. After an hour or so the real arrows are brought into action. It seems a long time before the little bear, exhausted from loss of blood, finally sinks to the ground. They take up the rope and drag him to the place of sacrifice and throttle him slowly between two horizontal baulks of timber. A young man winds the rope round himself and capers about. Girls and boys join in and a fast stamping dance develops; then a tug o' war develops with the rope, men against women. The elders meantime are dismembering the bear, cooking bear steaks, drinking bear broth, burning certain organs and taking others to the chief's hut for a mystery. The bear's skin is stuffed with oats, dressed like a human being, danced with, ritually worshipped ritually mutilated and delivered to the priest. The bear has become god.

All takes place in an atmosphere of controlled enthusiasm. The villagers would be horrified if you accused them of cruelty to animals. The bear was loaned by the gods and must be returned to the gods, purified by torment. So say the Ainu.

To visit the Ainu communities of Hokkaido was to suffer one more cultural shock, just as we were getting over the cultural shocks, ancient and modern, which all Western travellers in Japan must experience. Superficially, Hokkaido is a homely island, furnished with English-type beaches, Irish-type stud farms and Highland-type glens and birch forests. Sapporo, where the JAL jet lands, is a rectilinear version of the Tokyo we've just left. But the Ainu (pronounced I-noo, meaning "human animal") are something else again.

My guide Mr Kayano — flat face, pale Western eyes, portly — is a young-looking 56, great-grandson of a chieftain. He wears an Eastern suit and, to show how hairy he is, takes off the jacket and bares his chest and rolls up his sleeves. If he didn't shave twice a day his black beard would cover him to the eyebrows.

He has reconstructed, more or less single-handed, the Ainu village of timber-framed, bamboo-thatched huts at Biratori in the Kaisawa valley. He is, of course, an educated man, comfortably off, and he lives in a red-tiled bungalow at Biratori, but when his son married he built the young couple a bungalow next door, agreeable to Ainu tradition. "It's unthinkable the young should live with their parents, so we give them a hut."

Contrary to my expectations, the hairy Ainu don't roam the forest hunting bear, or sail the grey sea in dugout canoes, spearing seal . . . that life is seen only in the museums and, if your Ainu friends don't commute to work at the nearest papermill or bank, they're probably busy turning out wood carvings and woven mats for the souvenir market. They are the aboriginals of Japan, their last refuge is Hokkaido, and they regard the Japanese as unwelcome intruders. The disdain appears to be mutual: in government literature the Ainu are described as "kept intact for touristic purposes."

Thanks to Mr Kayano's conservationist zeal, Biratori is the repository of the most authentic Ainu traditions. Biratori has the Ainu cemetery with its chestnut grave-pillars, like giant pencils, topped with a diamond carving for the men and a circle for the women. Biratori is where we saw girls, remembering their animistic faith, splashing spring water on sunbaked rock, saying: "It thirsts".

Mr Kayano says: "You won't see these customs at Shiraoi, where they dance 30 times a day." Shiraoi is a large Ainu settlement 60 km along the coast, given over to tourism, complete with hotel, supermarket, boating lake, go-kart arena and heavily-romanticized museum. The best Ainu museum is in Sapporo at the so-called Batchelor House in the public park.

From the Western world, Hokkaido is reached via Tokyo or Osaka on frequent and very comfortable Japan Air Lines' flights (Tokyo-Sapporo one and a half hours, single fare £38); or by express train and ferry to the venerable port of Hakodate (Tokyo-Hakodate 15 hours, single fare £17). When the 35-mile bullet train tunnel is completed about 1983 the surface journey will be down to about five hours.

Hokkaido is delightful in summer but cold and harsh in spring and autumn, especially on the Okhotsk coast.

No British tour operators include Hokkaido or the Ainu villages in their package programmes, but Jaltour, Oriental Magic, Osprey and Thai-Malaysia offer tailor-made holidays in Japan, or optional extensions to basic tours.



Commuter airlines/David Richardson

A spot of turbulence

The airline industry is going through one of the worst periods in its history, reeling from the effects of the world recession and a cut-price fares war. But this year, while British Airways reported a loss of £141m, two other British airlines introduced scheduled services and a third resumed scheduled flights after a lapse of several years.

The names of Eastern Airways, Genair and Inter City Airlines are unknown to many air travellers, but their new services are dramatic evidence that Britain's minor airlines are looking to the future with a confidence not shared by the household names.

There are more than a dozen operating in Britain, known variously as feeder, commuter or "third level" airlines.

A spokesman for Plymouth-based Brymon Airways, one of the most successful, sums up their spirit and style thus: "Although the airports are usually small and you can sit behind the pilot, we are just as safe and follow the same rules as everyone else.

"There's still a romance and a feeling of adventure about this kind of flying."

Britain's minor airlines fall into three categories. First there are the feeder airlines, offering connexions at major airports for smaller cities. Then come services between business centres where the plane is a realistic alternative to train or private car. Lastly, and longest eatablished, are flights linking remote island communities with the mainland.

Brymon Airways, formed in 1972, fits into all three categories and now carries more than 100,000 passengers a year. Its 20-seat Twin Otters fly three times daily from Plymouth to Gatwick and a 50-seat Dart Herald is used on the twice-daily flight from Heathrow to Newquay.

Feeder services also operate to Gatwick from Birmingham and East Midlands airports, with through booking on to British Caledonian services. Exeter, Jersey, Guernsey, the Scilly Isles, Cork and three French airports are also served.

Britain's newest scheduled airline is Genair, which started a twice-daily feeder service from Liverpool to Gatwick in August. It uses a 16-seat Bandeirante aircraft, a type built in Brazil and now regarded as the best passenger aircraft of its size.

Another newcomer this year is Eastern Airways, based at Humberside airport, which is equidistant from Hull, Grimsby and Scunthorpe. It took over the Heathrow-Norwich-Humberside-Glasgow route in April after Air UK pulled out.

The Belfast-built Short SD330 flown by Eastern is a major new hope for the aircraft industry, winning a number of export orders. It is no beauty from the outside, but the interior is designed by Boeing to big aircraft standards.

Another airline to use the SD330 is Inter City Airlines, the trading name of Alidair, based at East Midlands airport, near Derby. Alidair used to operate a much bigger Viscount to Copenhagen but pulled out, to return to scheduled services in May this year with an SD330 linking East Midlands with Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

Inter City Airlines has recently started a daily service from East Midlands to Brussels. It has also applied to operate the SD330 on the Inverness-Aberdeen-Manchester, Aberdeen-Sumburgh and Aberdeen-Kirkwall routes.

Air UK, an amalgamation of Air Anglia and British Island Airways, operates six Bandeirantes from its Exeter base on routes including Exeter-Gatwick and Southampton-Paris. Air Wales, which linked Cardiff with Chester and Paris, was also brought into Air UK, but the routes were scrapped as unprofitable.

The Channel Islands are well served by minor airlines, with inter-island routes and services to France and the British mainland.

Jersey European Airways operates Bandeirantes, Twin Otters and Islanders, serving such airports as Brighton (Shoreham) and Stansted. It has this week been granted licences to operate between Liverpool and Dublin, and Liverpool, Waterford and Cork.

Guernsey Airlines operates to the island from Cambridge, Gloucester and Manchester plus services to Jersey, while the national airline of 2,000-population Alderney is Aurigny Air Services, whose Twin Otters, Trislanders and Islanders fly between the island and Southampton, Brighton, Cherbourg, Jersey and Guernsey.

Scotland too has bred several new airlines in recent years. Loganair is the established minor airline, now challenged by Air Ecosse. Other operators are Casair (Glasgow-Teesside) and Burnthills Aviation (Glasgow-Fort William, Rothesay and Lochgilphead).

Derek Harris

Computers fly in

Your travel agent's counter is the next place you could soon find a television screen flickering with information and a keyboard to feed your holiday needs into a computer link-up. It would end all those tedious delays at peak booking times when travel agents can spend ages trying by telephone to get through to the package holiday companies.

Agents switching to a computer-based system will be able instantly to pull up on to the screen the state of bookings on specific holidays, and alternatives to a customer's first preference. After bookings are keyed in, a print-out puts everything on paper for the customer to take away.

There was a lot of ballyhoo about the various new computerized systems when some 2,600 British travel agents went to their annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, last week. That was because package tour operators, anxious to get into computerized hook-ups with the agents, still have to persuade them to spend money on the agency end of the system.

Thomson Holidays, the biggest package holiday company, made great play of the fact that an agent could take the computer route for about £375 in annual rental for a Prestel television set and a keyboard. Thomson looks to have 2,000 of its key agents hooked up by the middle of next year.

Thomas Cook Holidays was talking of having 300 of its agents on line by this year's end and 2,000 by the end of next year. Olympic Holidays reckons it should have 1,000 agents equipped by Christmas and as many again within another year.

However, it remains to be seen how quickly some of even the big operators actually switch into the new technology as their profit margins come under pressure with the so far poor bookings for winter sun holidays and the prospect of nil growth at best next summer.

But the financial squeeze on travel agents, as the cost of holidays in real terms declines, is even tighter. It means a big rush into computerization by the agents might come later next year than some of the more optimistic forecasts suggest. The take-up on more expensive systems, despite their attractions, might well also be slower.

The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) has its own computer system on offer to members, around £7,000 being the cheapest option. An agent gets computer power to cope with the accounts and other agency business as well as the tour operator access and booking capability.

Winter holiday discount news

Destination	Nights	Company	Price	Save	Conditions
SKIING					
Tignes, France	7 f/b	Supertravel	£124	£30	Dec 19
Courchevel, France	7 f/b	Supertravel	£164	£30	Dec 19
Val d'Isere, France	7 f/b	John Morgan	£149	£20	Dec 12
Verbier, Switzerland	7 f/b	John Morgan	£149	£10/20	Dec 12
Verbier	7 f/b	Ski Sunburst	£140	£43	Dec 19
Meribel, France	7 f/b	Snowtime	£170	£55	Dec 19
Livigno, Italy	7 h/b	Global	£119	£40	Dec 19
Soll, Austria	7/14 b&b	Global	£105/139	£20	Dec 13
Formigal, Spain	7/14 s/c	Thomson	£65/69	£30/40	Dec & Jan, Luton & Manchester
St. Lary, France	7/14 s/c	Thomson	£54/59	£30/40	Dec & Jan, also Manchester
Les Arcs, France	14 s/c	Erna Low	£299	£25	Dec 19, Heathrow
Courmayeur, Italy	7 h/b	Thomas Cook	£159	£30	Dec 19
Anzere, Switzerland	7 s/c	Thomas Cook	£99	£30	Dec 19
Zermatt, Switzerland	7/14 s/c	Ski West	£99/145	£36/50	Dec 11, out coach, return air
Courmayeur	7/14 h/b	Ski West	£99/169	£31/46	Dec 11, out coach return air
SUN AND CITIES					
Portugal	7/14 b&b	Portland*	£69/99	£52/44	Dec 8
Malta	28 h/b	Portland	£189	£35	Dec 11
Greece, classical tour	7 h/b	Thomson	£148	£25	Jan 13, Luton
Israel	7 b&b	Thomson	£145	£20	Jan 10 & 17, Luton

Flights are from Gatwick unless otherwise stated. All discounts are calculated on current brochure prices.
*May only be booked directly — Portland telephone 01-388 5111.

Travel companies in the skiing business are still discounting heavily on Christmas week. Could it be that skiers are appalled by the prospect of travelling home on Boxing Day, or has everyone been waiting for this week's news of heavy snowfalls?

On both skiing and winter sun packages there are more discounts available than we have space to mention in this week's table. Thomson, for example, are still discounting their Tunisian Oasis and Cities of Andalucia holidays shown last week, and Cosmos have new low-price holidays which did not appear in the current winter brochure. Destinations include the Costa del Sol, Tenerife, Majorca and the Algarve.

S.C.P.

Countdown to Christmas: 6



Christmas and me...

Alan Hamilton recalls the hooch of yesteryear

Christmas morning in England is a time of silence, of deserted streets when the entire world stays indoors ripping open fancy paper and losing the gift tags. Not so in the Edinburgh of 1951.

The early trams squealed on their icy rails at the bottom of the hill. The milk horse clip-clopped up the street, steaming hot clouds from its nostrils and every so often from the end nearest the milk float, to the dismay of the milkman and the huge amusement of his boy helper. Buses rattled by, their windows filled with sullen morning faces heading for a full day's work. The postman rattled the big brass letterbox with a fistful of last-minute cards and income tax demands.

The papers came, printers' holly edging front pages thin on any real news. Across the city, steam engines hooted mournfully as they crawled from bed to find their early trains. The chilly breeze carried the sweet-and-sour whiff of malted barley; the Caledonian Distillery was cooking the hooch that would be ready just in time for Hogmanay, 1954.

A small plaster Santa Claus eyed Father warily as he simultaneously tackled his breakfast kipper and two slim parcels which contained, inevitably, sensible grey socks and plain white handkerchiefs. I had been up since four; all presents had been opened, examined, tested, played with, and at least one broken. Father went off to work as usual, at twenty to nine. That was it, really; Christmas was over. The real celebrations were yet to come.

In the days following the house began to fill with exotic groceries: Selkirk bannocks, black bun and tins of petticoat tail shortbread. When the delivery boy rode up with a large cardboard box of loose potatoes the unmistakeable clink of glass escaped from beneath the top layer as he handed them over. The house began to fill with uncles, who to a man displayed that fine old Scots custom, as soon as they arrived, of giving half-crowns to small children. At the time I thought it was manna from heaven; I realize now that it was slush money, to ensure that I did not come downstairs during the pagan midnight rites that were to follow.

Hogmanay was bitter cold. Father and the uncles donned their flat hats and went for bracing walks about the windy city, as though limbering up for later. They returned pink-cheeked, proclaiming gustily that it was a grand day for it. Afternoon slipped imperceptibly into early evening, and Father began to study the clock. On the stroke of seven he rose ponderously, like Lincoln at Gettysburg, and stilled all idle chat.

"Well, boys and girls, is there any of you would be caring to take a wee hoot?" They all affected to demur, but they were all gasping. Scots themselves well know the true meaning of such code-phrases as: "Well, maybe just a wee one for the cold" and "Och well, I'll take a sherry just to be sociable". The party was on, the drink blotted up by a groaning board of those groceries which had arrived in the preceding days.

I was having a ball. As the only child in the house, I was indulged by all, listening to the folklore of family and country as I blew bubbles down the straw into my Kia-Ora. But I was cheated in the end, for at ten they packed me off to bed, having spent all day winding me up to believe that some magical transmogrification of the atmosphere was to occur on the stroke of twelve.

Faces were pulled and teddy-bears flung about the bedroom, but soothing aunts gathered round and assured me that if I shut my eyes now, when I opened them again the New Year would have arrived. "Silly aunts", I thought, "don't you understand I want to see it *arriving*, coming in the door, or down the chimney, or however it comes?" But out went the lights, and the aunts retreated downstairs to add their high-pitched tinkle to the pool of merriment.

I struggled in vain to fight off sleep. I woke at two, disturbed by the crash of an aunt who had made a bad judgment about the turn in the staircase, or perhaps by the raucous singing in the street outside as revellers combed the city in search of open house. Letting the errant aunt fumble her way to bed, I crept downstairs and eased open the lounge door.

There, on the hearthrug, were two bottles of Gilbey's Spey Royal whisky, one dead and the other seriously injured. Father and the uncles lay sprawled asleep on the chairs, snoring their heads off.

"The poor things", I thought. "They missed it, too."



Elaine McGregor Turney

What we want is...

...no pockets

Asprey is the top name in leather cases. It seemed the right place to start looking for something I might get for Christmas, as an alternative to plastic bags, for carrying the paperwork that plagues my working life.

The buyer put me neatly in my place. Those square-sided cases are attaché and not brief at all, for all that modern paper containers are still measured by the size of a barrister's brief of foolscap paper.

Things to look out for. Is the stitching well finished? Do the hinges really work? Don't give me a case full of pockets: they add to the work, which adds to the price, and reduce inside space. Combination locks can't get lost, like keys, but I must remember to use unforgettable digits—my own birthday or phone number. Reinforced corners and aluminium frames are strongest.

Asprey's are making lighter, slimmer attaché cases in coloured leather for women executives. Real leather, lined with suede, are top of the pops, with prices ranging from £70 to £250.

If my paperwork was more disciplined I might like a document case—flat and zipped three-quarters round, with or without slip-out handles, to carry under the arm.

Had I lots of lovely litigation to come then a true brief case might be the right thing. It would be known also as a Top Frame case because the frame is metal and hinged on the sides but V-shaped when closed. Sturdily built, it would certainly carry enough paper for the Bleak House lawyers.

Merrier, but with a shorter life span, are the General Trading Company's thick card cases in bright colours, like happy graph paper. Corners are reinforced, nylon braid straps are optional and they certainly show up at the bottom of a hat stand.

To take to the office with a salad lunch Boots' Aladdin cases with nesting vacuum flask would still carry a bit of paperwork—enough for a very light day at the desk—and are more sturdy than my usual carrier bag.

Above, merry card case from GTC; right, Kermit waves a greeting from a Boots lunch kit.

☐ Expanding bottom attaché case with combination lock, in polished hide, lined with suède in black, brown, burgundy or navy, £250. Coloured leather cases from £158. Document cases with slip-out handle in calf and suède, £76.50. From Asprey, Old Bond St, W1.

☐ Coloured card cases with white reinforced corners and handles and optional carrying strap, £14.15 from General Trading Co, 144 Sloane St, SW1 (p&p, £2.10).

☐ Aladdin lunch kits with vacuum flasks from Boots department stores and larger branches; £3.45 complete.

☐ Top Frame brief cases, brown only, £35; with combination lock, £49 or £57. From John Lewis shops.

Diana Pollock

...the Ronettes

The specially produced album of Christmas music is a pop tradition which, in its time, has claimed artistes as notable and diverse as Elvis Presley, Stevie Wonder and the Beach Boys. Its crowning glory, and still a Radio One favourite in season after 15 years, is Phil Spector's *A Christmas Gift to You*, in which the brilliant producer brought his wall of sound and his repertory company of singers (the Ronettes, the Crystals, Darlene Love and so forth) to bear on a selection of tunes including "Frosty the Snowman" and "The Bells of St Mary's".

A Christmas Gift to You is still available (Spector International 2307 005, about £5), but on December 14 it will also appear in another guise, as part of a boxed nine-disc set titled *Phil Spector Masters* (Spector International WOS 001, about £23) which would make a fine gift for those whose old copies of "Da Doo Ron Ron" and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling" have worn white.

Spector's Christmas folly may never be bettered in terms of epic sweep, but its modern equivalent has just appeared. *The Ze Records Christmas Album* (Island/Ze ILPS 7017, about £4.50) is a similar construction in which the modish New York company parades its high-camp artistes, who include August Darnell, Cristina, Material and Was Not Was.

Elsewhere, the month's new pop releases are largely a matter of greatest-hits anthologies aimed at the gift market. Tamla Motown have a compilation of Diana Ross's solo efforts, notably "I'm Still Waiting" and "Love Hangover", titled *All the Great Hits* (STMA 8036, about £5.50), while RCA have David Bowie's *Changes 2* (BOWLP 3, about £4.50), which includes the recent "Ashes to Ashes".

Few pop fans would be displeased to receive *The Best of Blondie* (Chrysalis: CDLTV1, about £5.25); the combination of Debbie Harry's deadpan singing and sharp songs like "Sunday Girl" and "Heart of Glass" makes this also the best bet for parties.

Punks and punkettes will want a Siouxsie and the Banshees anthology called *Once Upon a Time* (Polydor POLSC 1056, about £4.50), while the gift of *Ten Years of Harmony*, which assembles on two discs the recent work of those Californian sun 'n' surf merchants the Beach Boys, might be thought amusingly inappropriate (Caribou 88553, about £6.50; it also contains their masterwork, the extraordinary track called "Surf's Up".

A welcome luxury for jazz fans would be *Bird Blows*, a boxed set of three LPs by the late alto saxophonist Charlie Parker, each disc now resplendent in its original sleeve artwork (Dial 901/904/905, about £12). Rumour has it that, in the quest for period fidelity, original surface noise has been dubbed on to the tape from which these new pressings have been manufactured.

Another certain winner would be a copy of the second edition of David Meeker's reference book *Jazz in the Movies* (Talisman, £14.95), much expanded and even more enjoyable than before, with tart opinions and many splendid illustrations.

Richard Williams

...a Château Lafite tea towel

Made-up cases of wines or goodies tend to lack personality, but I'd be delighted with some of those put together by Bow Wine Vaults. They have several "tasting cases", including an excellent one of Alsace from the highly individual and respected establishments of Kuentz-Bas and Trimbach; also a modestly-priced "unusual" case, with an English wine that is a real novelty —1975 Wootton Schönburger.

My preferred case comprises a bottle of Mumm's Crémant de Cramant, three of 1977 Côte Rôtie, to provide for Christmas morning and the festive bird, a half litre of Loire walnut oil, a bottle of Domaine Durban, Muscat de Beaumes de Venise and a Ch Lafite tea towel for the washing-up!

Requests for half bottles, which cost more to pack, keep and handle than half the costs involved with a bottle, bedevil both the wine writer and the trade. But Berry Bros' long list includes some real charmers, such as 1975 Angludet and 1971 Chambolle-Musigny.

Reid Wines, which specializes in mail order for fine and often rare wines, also lists a number of magnums and halves. A magnum of even a fairly cheap wine is always welcome, while halves of, say, 1975 Ch. Filhot provide the single glass of fine Sauternes to complete a good dinner.

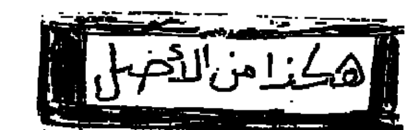
Halves of first-rate red Rhône from Paul Jaboulet Aîné, such as a 1966 Côte Rôtie Les Jumelles or a 1976 Châteauneuf du Pape Mont Rédon, will transform bread and cheese into a meal you can ask someone to stay and share.

☐ Bow Wine Vaults, 10 Bow Churchyard, EC4: Alsace tasting case, £49.60; unusual wine case (item F in their "Christmas gift" suggestions), £26.90; case including the Ch Lafite tea towel, plus items to smooth Christmas Day crises, £43. Orders for case lots for delivery outside London EC and WC are charged.

☐ Berry Bros, 3 St James's St, SW1: halves of 1975 Ch Angludet, £3.30; 1971 Chambolle-Musigny, £5.03.

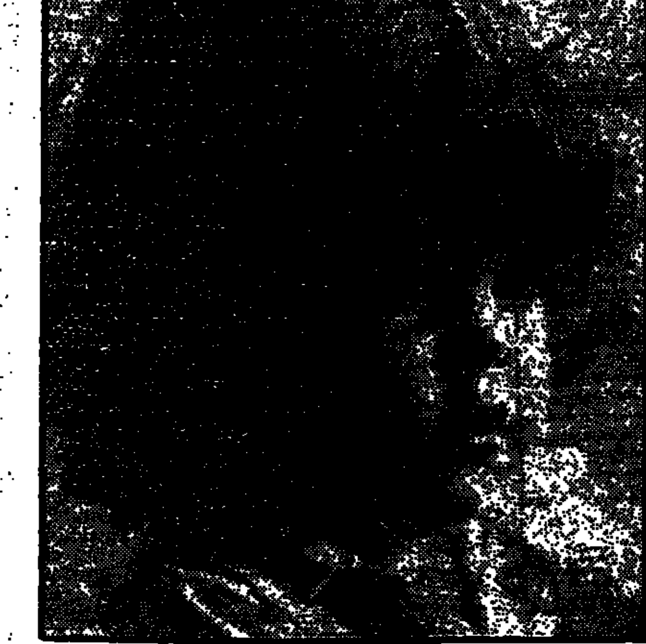
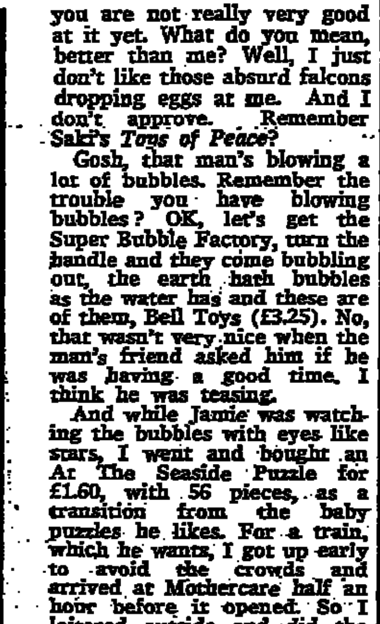
☐ Reid Wines, The Mill, Marsh Lane, Hallatrow, Bristol: halves of 1975 Ch. Filhot, £3.17; 1966 Côte Rôtie Les Jumelles, £6.32; Châteauneuf du Pape Mont Rédon 1976, £2.87. Cash with order.

Pamela Vandyke Price



Countdown to Christmas: 6

Jamie wants...

What Jamie wants for Christmas is a puppy. What Jamie is not going to get for Christmas is a puppy. Puppies in our household are Acts of Dog, and as far as I can judge, Dog Willing, none of our resident beagle bitches is in pup, though now I mention it Almond is looking a bit plump.

No, what we are going to do, Jimmy, is you and I and Mummy and Juliette are going to go to this marvellous ginormous toy shop called Hamleys, where Daddy used to love going when he was a little boy, especially for the conjuring tricks and the rude jokes. No, not so much now. It happens. It's the noise and the crowds and the pushing and the decisions.

But I must say their new premises are an improvement. More room to stand and stare without being jostled—Ooops, sorry. Where's he gone? Oh, there you are. *That's* called a TV Spaceman. He costs £12.95. Yes it is clever the way he walks. Oh, he makes that funny bleeping noise because he is going to zap somebody. No, don't. DON'T. Oh, I say. I *am* sorry. Do you think it'll mend?

Come on Jamie. Listen, James love, you must be a good boy and not touch. Because. They're not ours. The lady will be *cross*. Come and look at the cuddly, soft, unbreakable toys. Of course everybody likes cuddly toys. Well, I like that Paddington. Look he's got boots just like yours. No, Jamie, No. Not the lion. Well, for one thing it wouldn't fit in your room.

No, not the dog family. Yes, they're sucking her titties and she's wagging her tail (£17.50). No, of course it's not rude. Yes, just like Almond . . . . What do you mean just like Almond? No, sorry, Jamie, sorry, we just *don't want* any more puppies, not even woolly toy ones. We don't need them. We have the *real* thing. BECAUSE.

Ah, that's more like it. Lollies. Yes, lots and lots of lorries. LORRIES. Rr, Rr,-say Rrrr. Strange, isn't it, when I hate cars, can't drive, can't tell a Volkswagen from a Landrover, and look forward to the day when the oil finally runs out, how the little chap loves the foul things. OK, Jamie, is it going to be the Car Transporter with all those model cars on its back (£6.50) or the 1918 Coal and Coke Delivery Vehicle (£2.60)?

No, Juliette, you can't have the model petrol-driven Volkswagen. Well, for one thing this is supposed to be about shopping for Jamie; and for another your legs are too long to fit in it; and for another it costs £2,210, radio £90 extra, cover £35. Dear God, *dear God*. Yes, life is Not fair. You're old enough to know that.

Listen, Jimmy love, you can't have them all. Tell you what, why don't we get the Matchbox Carrying Case, which gives you 24 Matchbox cars in two trays. Look, you get the Container Truck and the Horsebox and the Ambulance and that funny looking thingy (£17.75). Yes, I think you can swop the Ambulance for a Combined Harvester.

No, not in there. Those are for bigger boys. What do you mean, smelly old men? Yes, I see what you mean. Those are called electronic toys. Don't press the button. Oh God. It's called Beam - Galaxian (£35). Those are enemies from outer space attacking from every angle, and it is for bigger boys. Yes, I know you played Space Invaders at Rossi's Hotel with the big boys on holiday, but you are not really very good at it yet. What do you mean, better than me? Well, I just don't like those absurd falcons dropping eggs at me. And I don't approve. Remember Saki's *Toys of Peace*?

Gosh, that man's blowing a lot of bubbles. Remember the trouble you have blowing bubbles? OK, let's get the Super Bubble Factory, turn the handle and they come bubbling out, the earth hath bubbles as the water has and these are of them, Bell Toys (£3.25). No, that wasn't very nice when the man's friend asked him if he was having a good time. I think he was teasing.

And while Jamie was watching the bubbles with eyes like stars, I went and bought an At The Seaside Puzzle for £1.60, with 56 pieces, as a transition from the baby puzzles he likes. For a train, which he wants, I got up early to avoid the crowds and arrived at Mothercare half an hour before it opened. So I loitered outside and did the crossword, and when it opened, I bought the Mothercare Railway Set for £8.95.

It's battery operated, so you can't lose the key as I always used to with my Hornby trains, O my Hornby and my Bradshaw long ago. It runs on a torch battery, so he can't fuse the lights, as I used to with my electrics. It's tough. And he liked one belonging to a friend of his up Glen Farg he was playing with a week or two ago.

There is a toy garage he liked in hospital made by that very good firm called something like Fischer-Dieskau but not quite. I shall try to find one of those to put all his fleet of cars in. I shall get him an exciting book and a pop-up book. Smarties and little things from Woollies. Tangerines and apples. Lego and coloured pencils from W. H. Smug.

Goats and monkeys, I am bad at Christmas shopping.

Philip Howard

Competition winners

The Christmas card industry is worth about £30m to the 100 or so national charities which share in its profits. In addition, many hundreds of smaller organizations—churches, schools, animal homes etc—reckon to boost their annual income by the sale of a locally-produced card, more often than not designed by one of their own members. All told, between two and three thousand different designs "in aid of a good cause" are thought to be on sale this Christmas.

In the face of such statistics, the factors which make charity X's cards sell in preference to charity Y's become of more than passing interest. The cause, the price of the card and the marketing methods used for its distribution all have their effect. But the two most decisive factors, in the view of the Charity Christmas Card Council, are the subject of the design and the quality of its execution.

In an effort to identify this elusive quality, *The Times* invited readers to submit the Christmas card, on sale this year in aid of a nationally registered charity, which they considered to have greater artistic merit than any other in the same price range, and in the same price range.

Cash prizes, each of £100, were offered to the readers whose submissions, in the opinion of the competition judges, had the greatest artistic merit in three price ranges—below 15p, 15p-25p and over 25p. An additional £1,000 donation was promised to the charity benefiting from the sale of the card judged to be the outright winner, regardless of its price.

The great majority of the 246 cards submitted fell within the cheapest price range. Several were submitted by more than one reader—notably a striking composite design featuring four paintings by children and sold for 6p on behalf of Barnardo's, and a tiny grey card with a silver Christmas star designed by Ann Parsons and sold for 7p in aid of the Helen House hospice for children in Oxford. The only design submitted in the over 25p price range was not considered to merit a prize.

The excellent designs by Unicef, marketed internationally, were excluded by the judges as providing unfair competition. Otherwise, they would have swept the board.

Richard Sachs



The outright winner of the competition is this 7cm x 5cm card, entitled The Last Bus Home. It was designed by Roy Gerrard, a Cheshire artist, and sold in aid of both the Save the Children Fund and the Royal Academy of Arts. The bus is bus-coloured, the sky a brilliant winter blue; the light, like the happiness which the card conveys, is crystal clear.

The cards come in packs of ten, price £1.60. They are available from the Royal Academy shop, Piccadilly, W1, and the SCF Trading Department, PO Box 40, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs. £50 prizes to each of the two readers who submitted the card—Mrs R. Millar of 12 Aynhoe Road, W14, and Tess Allen of Felcourt, Copdock, Ipswich. Donations of £500 to each organization.



Left: Jane Longmore, a young Hertfordshire artist, designed this charming card (7 cm x 5 cm) for the Ada Cole Memorial Stables, an Essex charity for the rescue and protection of horses, ponies and donkeys. The colours are soft and gentle—a blue/green Christmas tree, a coral pink tunic for Santa, a pale blue coverlet.

The card, winner in the 15p-25p category, was submitted by Mrs Gail Fox of Jenningsbury, Hertford. It can be bought from 115 Streatham Vale, SW16 (£1.80 for ten, inc. p&p).



Below: winner in the under 15p category is this brilliantly colourful card, 21 cm x 15 cm, painted by two members of the Paddington Junior PHAB Club, Sarah Hepworth, aged 8, and Zoe Scutt, aged 10.

The paper chains are a riot of scarlet, green and blue, and Santa Claus wears a crimson costume trimmed, rather engagingly, with black. The fairy on top of the tree "must be one of the artists' mums", says Mrs Jacqui Frye, of 8 Hillarton Road, N7, who submitted the card.

PHAB is a nation-wide charity which aims to further the integration of physically handicapped and able-bodied children. The cards, which cost £1.30 for 10, inc. p&p, can be bought from its offices at 47 Westmoreland Terrace, SW1.



20 days to go . . .

Today: if you are planning a candlelight Christmas, go to the Harvey Nichols tented candle boutique where you can choose from candles in 36 colours. These include spikes which can be arranged in groups or stuck into anything edible, as they don't drip.

There is also a particularly exotic gold table setting with a gold duck for £14.95 and round wooden gold candlesticks at £1.95 each. Side plates with gold doilys on cost 35p each and complete the theme. Floating candles can set off a flower display, or there are candles in the shape of Christmas puddings in 1 lb and 2 lb sizes, costing £1.99 and £2.99.

Tomorrow: children might find it fun to make their own candles by melting down old ones and pressing them into small glasses or metal containers. Hamleys sell a candle-making set for £6.50.

Monday: choose your sherry. To be recommended for value is the Cape Cavendish range at £1.99, the Spanish Moncilla Monte Cristo at £1.85 and Harvey's 11, a dry aperitif sherry with a fruity taste at £2.89. If you want to experiment, buy Cocorive at £6.99—a Virgin Islands rum with added coconut juice. Mix in your own pineapple juice for perfect pinacoladas. A 20 cl bottle costs £2.99.

Tues, Weds, Thurs: buy coffee beans for fresh roasting (throw out all those instant coffees which the manufacturers tell us are "just like the real thing": they aren't, and weight for weight, they are a lot more expensive). We enjoy Colombian beans (£2.78 a lb) for every day and Blue Mountain (£2.86) for special occasions.

A small tin of luxury tea, such as Earl Gray, also makes a good present. Both tea and coffee can be bought from branches of Importers Retail Salerooms and Villa Fern.

Some good stocking fillers need not cost a lot. A locotrain with track, signals, tunnel and trees is £1.95. Flip Frog complete with frogs and pool (add your own water) is 60p. Fish shaped safety scissors cut paper, but not fingers (75p). A doll 6in tall comes in vest and pants with a fully-lined basket (£1.55). All at Hamleys.

Friday: a bit early to make patés for Christmas, but you could experiment. If you have a freezer, make one for now and put a couple in the freezer. As a change from meats and poultry, try smoked salmon, made with left-overs from the fishmonger and mixed with cream cheese, butter, lemon juice and a teaspoon of anchovy essence. No cooking required for this, or for smoked mackerel paté, made in the same way and turned into a dish to set.

Diana Patt

Shoparound

with Beryl Downing

If you want to shine just add glitter

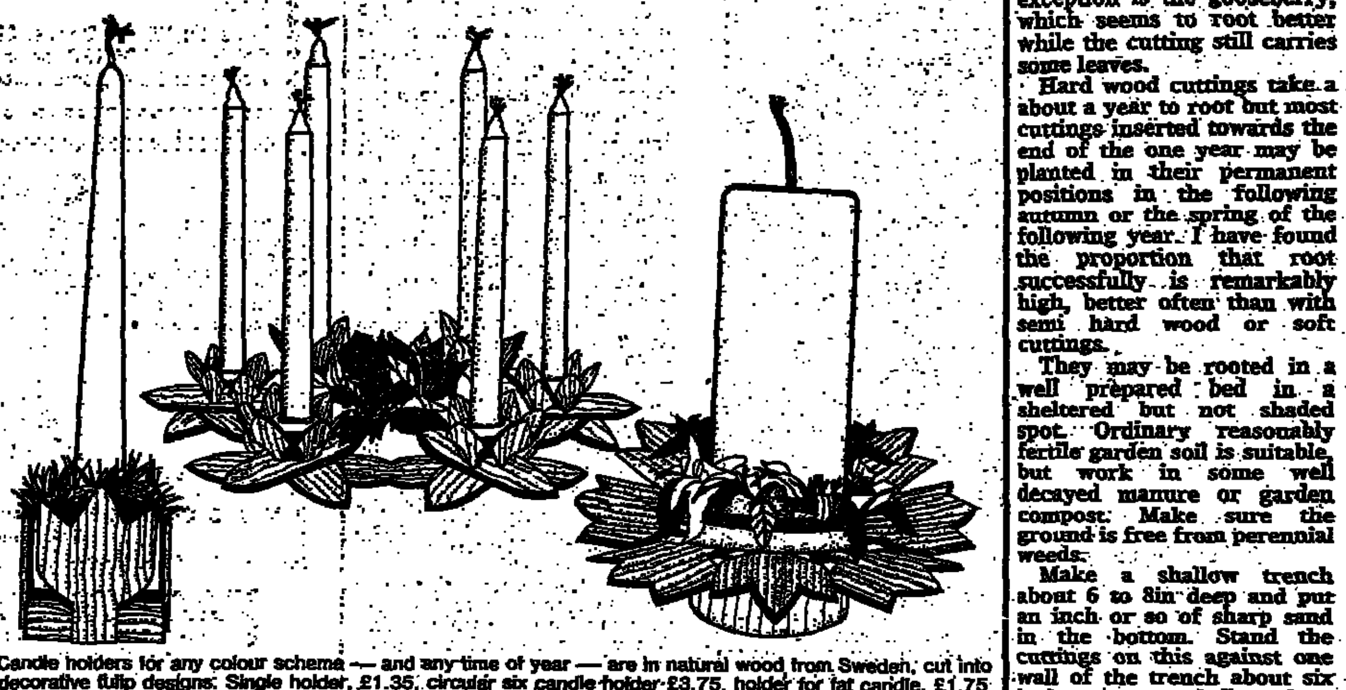
Anyone can sparkle this Christmas — if not with wit, at least with glitter. The fashion mood is for romance and escapism in decoration as well as in clothes and it doesn't cost a great deal to light a golden candle and push back the frontiers of economic gloom.

One of the most attractive candle departments just opened in London is at Harvey Nichols — the Point à la Ligne boutique which stocks a range of 36 colours in several sizes of candles from tapers at 44p each to 11½in candles at 61p each. There are also coordinating paper napkins, 89p pack of 20, and party plates at 35p each, so you can plan your festive decor round almost any colour scheme.

Habitat, too, has candle coordinates — boxes of three dozen 5¼in candles in brown, rust and green, red yellow and orange, blue green and olive or burgundy pink and grey. £2.50 per box. And the Candle Shop, 30 The Market, Covent Garden, boasts the widest size and colour range in Europe from 3p upwards.

For sparkling cards and gift tags go to John Siddeley, 4 Harriet Street, London, SW1, whose elegant range has been created for him by Max Murphy Designs. No tawdry tinsel here, but the sort of sophisticated, simple shapes in shimmering gold, silver and jewel colours that you would expect from this top interior designer. There are blank cards, 45p each, and tree hangings and gift tags at about 75p to £1 for a pack of five.

And if, by December 24, you feel your halo is slipping a little, try adding a little extra shine to your hair with a glitter spray. In an aerosol can, it is like a fine hair spray but leaves tiny shimmering pinpoints of gold or silver in your hair. Also in red, blue, green or turquoise for more dramatic effect, they cost £3.50 each plus £1 p & p from Schumi, 16 Pont Street, London, SW1, and branches.



Candle holders for any colour scheme — and any time of year — are in natural wood from Sweden, cut into decorative tulip designs. Single holder, £1.35, circular six candle holder £3.75, holder for fat candle, £1.75. Poinsettia candle rings from 70p. All from the Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London W1.

Harvey Nichols is expanding its china and glass department and placing special emphasis on co-ordinating tableware, both traditional English and modern Continental, American and Japanese. From its ranges we selected a golden scheme to add sparkle to any Christmas table. White and gold plates, called Scala d'Oro by Hutschenreuter, 10in £15.95, 6in £7.95 (other sizes available); bronze seven piece cutlery set (small spoon not shown) by Eurasco, £11.95 a box; Hexagonal golden salt and pepper, £19.95, golden apple coasters, £16.95 a box of six, Sasaki crystal goblets, Mariya, large and medium each, £8.50, 7in golden candle 59p in a glittery gold Lurex sack holder (filled with sand) £8.95. The gift-wrapped box is a candle too, £2.99. All from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

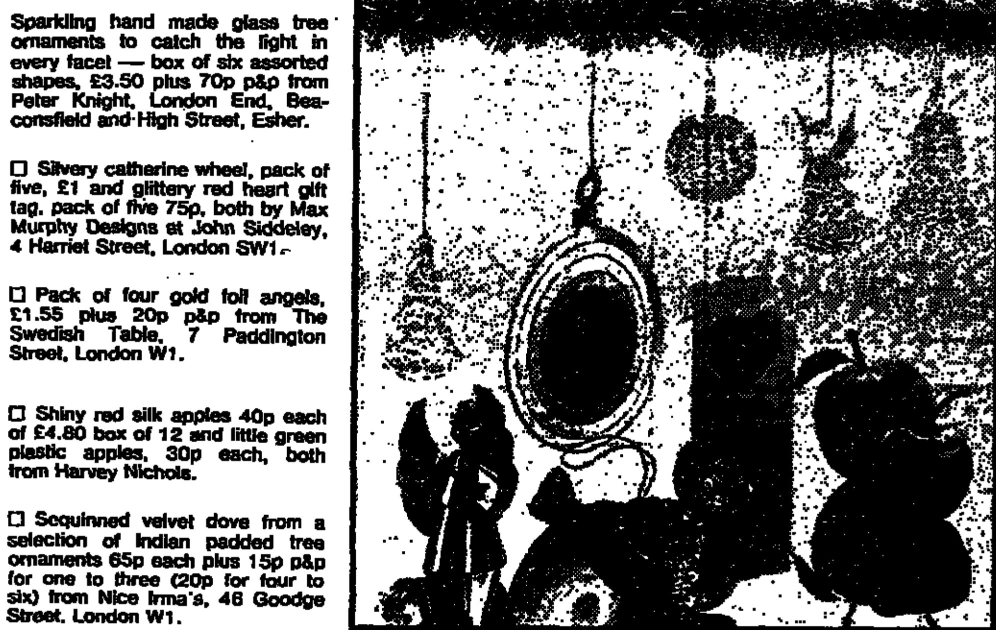
Sparkling hand made glass tree ornaments to catch the light in every facet — box of six assorted shapes, £3.50 plus 70p p&p from Peter Knight, London End, Beaconsfield and High Street, Esher.

☐ Silvery catherine wheel, pack of five, £1 and glittery red heart gift tag, pack of five 75p, both by Max Murphy Designs at John Siddeley, 4 Harriet Street, London SW1.

☐ Pack of four gold foil angels, £1.55 plus 20p p&p from The Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London W1.

☐ Shiny red silk apples 40p each or £4.80 box of 12 and little green plastic apples, 30p each, both from Harvey Nichols.

☐ Sequinned velvet dove from a selection of Indian padded tree ornaments 65p each plus 15p p&p for one to three (20p for four to six) from Nice Irma's, 46 Goodge Street, London W1.













Putting the dazzle into diamonds

Selling diamonds to Liberace must be as superfluous as flogging Magicoal to an oil sheikh, but Ivor Gordon is not a jeweller to be daunted by a little competition. When you also count Elizabeth Taylor and Elaine Stritch among your customers, dazzle is your business.

Although he comes from diamond country, South Africa, he first studied economics and law before being lured into the jewelry business by the sheer magic of beautiful stones. He concentrated on the cut variety as in South Africa it is illegal for anyone outside the factories to possess uncut stones — none of this hidden treasure wrapped up in bits of plain paper that everyone in Hatton Garden carries in his pocket, if we are to believe the recent television series *Diamonds*.

He was particularly fascinated by the beauty of coloured gems and set out to learn everything he could about their composition and the most effective ways of showing them to their best advantage. As a result he has developed a technique which is unique in London — the setting of a diamond directly into the centre of another precious or semi-precious stone.

These can be amethysts, tourmalines, sapphires or rubies — almost anything but emeralds, which would be likely to shatter — and for maximum effect the diamond must be at least half a carat. Only two rings have so far been made in this style — the first a diamond set in a cabochon amethyst, the second, illustrated, is an 18ct gold ring with the diamond set in a faceted pink tourmaline.

Not many such rings will be made, for even if there is a rush of customers clamouring to pay from £2,500 to own one, Ivor Gordon has the finely tuned South African awareness of the dangers of flooding the diamond market. In any case, he offers several other services to his clients, including remodelling their own jewels.

The design of jewelry is his greatest pleasure and he will create special pieces to suit a customer, either in modern style or in versions of delicate Edwardian settings. And if you buy a loose stone for him to set it will first be sent off to a gem laboratory so that you can have documentary evidence of its purity, weight and colour.

Even if your price range is nearer to £100 rather than £1,000, you can still enjoy a visit to this tiny showroom at 49b Sloane Street, London SW1, lined with mirrors and pale grey moire silk like the inside of a jewel box. There are charming Victorian rings and brooches of turquoise or pearls at about £145, Deco cuff links in platinum and diamonds at £325, chains of carved ebony linked with gold at £450.

Whatever the price, half the fun will be discussing your choice with Ivor Gordon, for you cannot fail to catch his enthusiasm for beautiful things, trust his appreciation of good design and his knowledge of quality. As his wife, Eleanor, put it: "You need professional guidance when you buy jewelry. You wouldn't do your own legal work or accountancy — you need someone who will show you exactly why you are spending your money and on what."

Illustrations by Jill Feld

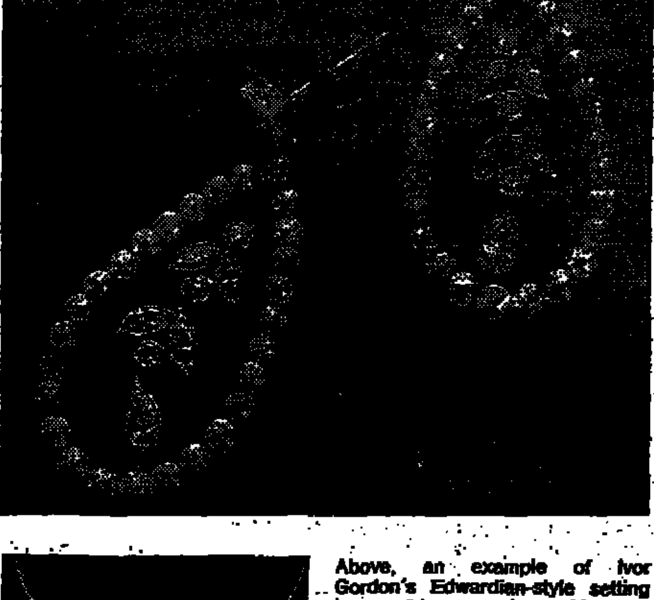


Sparkle of the rarest kind — an 18ct gold ring showing Ivor Gordon's new technique of embedding a diamond in the centre of another stone — in this case a pink tourmaline, £2,500.





Dramatic American-Indian necklace in silver and turquoise, £127.25 at Libertys, Regent Street, London W1; butterfly-shaped silver and turquoise brooch, £14.50 and 1920s-style dancing brooch in silver and enamel, £34 both from Butler and Wilson, 189 Fulham Road, London SW3





Above, an example of Ivor Gordon's Edwardian-style setting — pearl hoop earrings with pear-shaped drop diamonds, £1,500 at 49b Sloane Street, London SW1.

■ Jewelry of the highest craftsmanship in modern materials is on show at the Argenta Gallery, 82 Fulham Road, London SW3, until December 24. Brian Eburah and Nina Embling both use the many colours of titanium and niobium to brilliant effect — Brian in abstract boxes, pendants and paper knives, Nina, with softer effect, blends the metals with mother of pearl, tiny glass beads and twists of coloured thread to make delicate necklaces and earrings. Prices are from £35 to about £275. The pendant (left) by Brian Eburah is in misty blue shading to deep violet titanium, £110.

Perks for the palate

However traditional you like your Christmas meal to be, there is always room during the holiday for a small surprise to perk up the palate, so whether you are taking a present of food or wine to your hostess, or simply laying in stocks for your guests, here are some of the temptations I have tried and enjoyed:

■ Adventurous 'Cook's Basket, containing a selection of English Provender wine vinegars and green and pink peppercorns for marinades, stuffings, sauces — £8.50 (£2.50 p & p) from Hannells, 3 Davies Street, London, W1.

■ Hazelnut oil from Hédiard in Paris, £3.85 (99p p & p) for 50cl, or walnut oil, £2.45 (99p p & p) 50cl — both turn the plainest salad into something ambrosial — from Duff and Trotter, 40 Wilkinson Street, London, SW8 1DB.

■ A famous name in tea is now back on the shelves — Hornimans. The range includes five very good quality teas, Earl Grey, Assam, Darjeeling, Ceylon in 125g cartons at about 44p or in packs of 20 tea bags, 35p, and Lapsang Souchong in cartons only. From selected Safeway and Tesco supermarkets.

■ For those who prefer coffee — four new flavours from Langford Brothers. French Roast is for those who like very dark smokey coffee, Mocha for those who are rather weaker-kneed, Columbia and Kenya for those who like the flavour strong but not bitter. All filter fine, £1.90 for 250g packs from Heals and Liberty's or by post from the Clipper Tea and Produce Company, 24 West Park Road, Kew, Surrey TW9 4DA (by mail, two packs £4.50, four packs £8.50 including postage).

■ For parties, big 4½lb pots of paté from Sainsbury. Brussels, £5.58 and Farmhouse, £6.12 are smooth. Duck, £5.76 until December 14 when it will be £6.48, and Turkey, £6.30 are coarser. Prices include the pot and are a saving of 12p per lb on each paté when bought by the portion.

■ For cooks with no time to spare the best bought puddings and cakes to my taste are still at Marks and Spencer. Luxury Christmas Pudding with cider and rum, 3lb, £3.99; 2lb, £2.85; 1lb, £1.60; Luxury Christmas cake, £7.99, all rich, dark, fruity and moist. I also particularly liked their Biscuits for Cheese assortment, very crisp and just the right saltiness, 99p for 1.1lb.

■ For sweet-toothed gourmets — a chocolate bar 12in long to slice as you choose. The base is marzipan topped with 1in of cognac flavoured truffle, all wrapped in chocolate. In a gold foil box, the Cognacstryffel is £3.75 plus 55p p. & p. from The Swedish Table, 7 Paddington Street, London W1.

■ For those who prefer their liquor as a liquid asset I have been trying a selection of wines from the makers of my favourite pink champagne, Cordier Laurent Perrier. For party drinking they have litre bottles of Cordier Vin de Table — the medium dry white is a very easy tipple; not acidic, not too sweet, at £2.80 a litre — and for something special to drink with the turkey the Laurent Perrier Gruaud Larose 1973 is a beautifully balanced claret at £7.50. Corney and Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, EC1 and Rex Norris of Haywards Heath are among merchants who have a good selection of Cordier wines.

■ And to save you the trouble of shopping around for Christmas spirits, a survey of the major supermarkets shows that ASDA have the cheapest Gordon's gin at £5.78 with Littlewoods and Safeway runners up at £5.79; Teachers whisky is £6.09 at Tesco and Littlewoods, Haig £6.09 at Sainsbury; Courvoisier brandy £8.15 and Martell £8.25 at Asda, £8.39 and £8.49 at Safeway.

Gardening/Roy Hay

Putting down roots

Many people don't realize how easy it is to propagate a wide range of trees and shrubs by hard wood cuttings taken usually, but not always, in the dormant season from October to March. An exception is the gooseberry, which seems to root better while the cutting still carries some leaves.

Hard wood cuttings take a about a year to root but most cuttings inserted towards the end of the one year may be planted in their permanent positions in the following autumn or the spring of the following year. I have found the proportion that root successfully is remarkably high, better often than with semi hard wood or soft cuttings.

They may be rooted in a well prepared bed in a sheltered but not shaded spot. Ordinary reasonably fertile garden soil is suitable, but work in some well decayed manure or garden compost. Make sure the ground is free from perennial weeds.

Make a shallow trench about 6 to 8in deep and put an inch or so of sharp sand in the bottom. Stand the cuttings on this against one wall of the trench about six inches apart and firm them well in. If they should be loosened by frost in the winter tread them in firmly again. The length of the cuttings varies but normally they should be about 8 to 12in long. The soft upper parts of shoots, if green and unripened, should be discarded and only firm wood used.

Roses root fairly easily. I have grown 'Peace', 'Iceberg', 'Buccaneer', 'Queen Elizabeth' and many more successfully on their own roots. Less strong growers do not make such vigorous plants. The advantage of roses on their own roots over those budded on briar stocks is that there is no sucker problem - any shoots that come from below ground are those of the cultivated variety.

Insert the cutting so that the lower half to two thirds is in the ground. Normally one leaves any buds on the part of the cutting to be buried, but in the case of gooseberries and red currants the lower buds are rubbed off because these bushes are normally grown on a leg and we do not want shoots coming from below groung.

With black currants we want to encourage new shoot from below ground so we leave all the buds on.

A number of trees root easily from hard wood cuttings - indeed one often hears of young trees dying but the stake taking root. Willows, mulberries and poplars root easily. Shrubs that are easily propagated in this way are forsythias, weigelas, philadelphuses, privet, flowering currant (ribes), pyracanthas and the Russian vine, *Polygonum baldschuanicum*.

I am often asked to recommend a good book about plant propagation. The latest to appear is *The Complete Book of Plant Propagation* by Robert Wright and Alan Titchmarsh (Ward Lock £7.95). It contains chapters that will be appreciated only by a few readers - mist propagation, budding and grafting, for example. But many other methods are described which may sound complicated but are really simplicity itself - soft, semi hard cuttings, layering in the ground and air layering.

People think that propagation is a great mystery, needing green fingers. But all that is really needed is intelligent observation and patience. Much depends in many cases on the stage of development of the cuttings; those taken too young and soft may rot; taken too late when the wood has hardened up they may take months to root, if indeed they ever do.

But the beauty of propagating our own plants is that it costs nothing but an hour or two of our time, and great is the satisfaction when we have managed to put roots on a cutting which everybody said would never root.

Jobs for December

Finish clearing up leaves, the remains of vegetable crops and summer annuals. Cut down herbaceous plants and fork over the border, working in 4oz of bonemeal or hoof and hornmeal to the square yard.

Prune apple and pear trees. If they have not been sprayed with a tar oil or DNOC spray for several years do so before the end of the year. The tar oil will clear any green algae growth.

Bulbs growing in pots or bowls outdoors can be brought in soon. When tulips and daffodils show two inches of growth, and when the hyacinths bud is well clear of the bulb, they should stand in the hall or a cool room for a few days before bringing them into a warm sitting room.

Sponge the leaves of house plants with tepid water to remove dust; plants with many small leaves may be ducked in a sink full of water.

When you buy your Christmas tree spray it with S600, which now comes in aerosol packs, to prevent the needles from dropping. It also helps to keep holly, ivy and other evergreen decorations from shrivelling prematurely.

If you are moving or planting evergreens spray their leaves too with S600 to prevent shrivelling by drying winds before they have had time to make new roots. S600, also Stayoff, the spray to apply now to discourage birds from stealing buds on fruit trees and bushes, ornamental trees and shrubs and ornamental berries, should be obtainable from good garden shops or from Synchemicals, 44 Grange Walk, London, SE1 3EN.

The Times Cook

Shona Crawford Poole

The cassoulet cult

There are as many versions of *cassoulet* as there are of any other time-honoured country dish which has won wide popularity. In the area around Toulouse there are restaurants to which *cassoulet* lovers make detours.

And as with any dish thus acclaimed, there are numerous versions of it. Strong and often differing views are held on what it should and should not contain. There are schools of thought for and against the inclusion of tomato, wine and other ingredients. I even came across a fine example in Carcassonne this summer that was made only with ingredients which were organically grown (or, in the case of the meat, raised).

For a dish which is no more than a glorified rendering of baked beans with bangers, it excites strong passions. Some people like it thick and sludgy while others prefer the main elements to retain more of their own identity. So before giving the recipe I should say that my *cassoulet* has no wine and no tomato and is not sludgy unless cooked too long.

If you did not make *confit* of goose, duck or pork from last week's recipe, you can substiture part-roasted goose or duck, or chunks of pork which have been quickly browned. Alternatively, use bacon in the piece.

If you plan to make the dish and freeze it, and it freezes very well, add the topping of breadcrumbs only for the final reheating.

Cassoulet

Serves at least 10

900g (2lbs) white kidney beans or cannellini beans

3 large onions, chopped

5 cloves garlic, finely chopped

225g (8oz) green streaky bacon, diced

1.25 litres (2¼ pints) well flavoured meat or poultry stock

450g (1lb) Toulouse sausages, or other rough cut pure pork sausages

1 small shoulder or leg of lamb, boned

2 or 3 large pieces of confit of goose, duck or pork

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 bay leaves

1 sprig of thyme

85g (3oz) stale white breadcrumbs

Soak the beans overnight in plenty of cold water. Next day, rinse them in fresh water and put them in a large pan. Cover them with water and bring slowly to the boil. Skim the pot well and reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover and continue cooking until the beans are tender but not falling apart. This can take anything from about 40 minutes to two hours, depending on the age and whim of the beans. Drain them and set them aside.

Make the stock while the beans are cooking. Put the onion, garlic and bacon in a pan and sweat them gently together on a low heat until the onions are soft. They should not brown. Add the stock and simmer, covered, until needed.

In a frying pan, brown the sausages in a little goose fat or lard, then set them aside. Cut the lamb into big cubes and brown these too on all sides.

Rub a large casserole, preferably an earthenware one, with a cut clove of garlic. Cut the sausages into four pieces and put them in the casserole with the browned lamb and pieces of *confit*. Add the bay leaves and thyme, and depending on the strength of the stock, salt and pepper. The *confit* is fairly salty too of course, but the beans do absorb a lot of seasoning. Cover the meats with the beans then pour in the stock. Sprinkle the top of the dish with a thick layer of breadrumbs and bake it, uncovered, in a moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for 1½ to 2 hours. By this time the lamb and sausages should be cooked through and the breadcrumbs will have formed a golden brown crust.

If you have prepared the *cassoulet* up to the baking stage then allowed it to cool, you should cook it for an hour before topping it with the breadcrumbs and baking for another 1½ hours. This is to ensure that the lamb and sausages are thoroughly cooked.

Serve the *cassoulet* from its cooking pot with no more than a crisp green salad and perhaps fruit or cheese to follow.

Wives get raw deal from tax man, page 18

Business News

THE TIMES Saturday December 5 1981

Personal investment, pages 18 and 19

Housing starts set to exceed forecasts

By Baron Phillips

Private sector housing starts seem set to exceed original industry forecasts despite the recession and high interest rates. Housebuilders now forecast a total of about 118,000 starts by the end of the year compared with last year's 98,000, the lowest since 1953.

Figures issued by the Department of the Environment indicate that between January and October just over 101,000 private sector houses were started, an increase of about 21 per cent over the same period last year. With figures for two months of the year still to come in the total could top 120,000 starts, but traditionally work falls away in the run up to Christmas and the final outcome is likely to be just under that figure.

But public sector starts have fallen dramatically since the beginning of the year, reflecting cuts in local authority spending. Between January and October fewer than 30,000 public housing starts were made—40 per cent lower than the same period last year.

It is expected total public and private sector starts this year will be roughly the same as 1980 at between 153,000 and 154,000.

According to the department's figures, there appears little evidence of any big cutbacks by housebuilders in the private sector despite high mortgage rates and a poor economic climate. This is due to the effort made by builders to offer buyers a range of attractive financial incentives.

Although the basic mortgage interest rate now stands at 15 per cent, buyers of new homes are being offered rates as low as 7¾ per cent for the first year. Nearly every big builder in Britain is offering cheap mortgages to sell houses. Other incentives include payment of solicitors' and surveyors' fees and mortgages of almost 100 per cent.

The House-Builders Federation said: "Private sector housing starts have held up remarkably well and it shows that the incentives builders are offering are making an impact."

This year has also witnessed a shift away from traditional three bedroom houses to small single person "starter" units being built by market leaders such as Barratt Developments and Wimpey.

The federation said there was some indication that the drop in the public sector building programme was being compensated for by private housing, in line with government objectives.

North Sea oil public share plan scrapped

By Frances Williams

The Government has abandoned its plans to launch North Sea oil savings bonds, which would have given the public a chance to share in the huge revenues from Britain's offshore oilfields.

The decision follows directly from the announcement in October that the Government is to sell off into private hands the oilfields owned by the British National Oil Corporation, to which the return on the bonds was to be linked.

But the weakness of world oil prices has also influenced the decision by reducing the bonds' potential attraction to investors.

Treasury officials, who have been luke-warm if not hostile to the idea since it was announced to the Conservative party conference by Mr David Howell, then Energy Secretary 15 months ago, will be relieved.

The bonds were seen at the time as a political sop to hard-line MPs demanding full-blooded denationalization of BNOC and who were disappointed by Mr Howell's failure to come up with proposals for selling off a majority shareholding in the corporation.

The bonds—up to £500m worth—were to have been issued in small denominations such as £25 or even £10 through post offices as a form of national savings. The return would have been linked to the revenues of specified BNOC oilfields. The bonds would not have entitled holders to any stake in the corporation's assets or to a say in its operations.

Almost immediately, however, the plan ran into practical difficulties over how the return was to be calculated. Falling oil prices and uncertainties over future production levels added to the complications. Production levels in particular depend to a large extent on government policy towards depletion rates and taxation.

North Sea savings bonds would also have competed with other forms of national savings and with gilt sales which are now offering exceptionally high returns. So the benefits to government funding would have been limited, especially since the extension from September of inflation-proofed national savings certificates—"the people's bond"—to all age groups.

The Treasury was still trying to sort out the technical difficulties when Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Energy Secretary, told the Commons that BNOC's production interests, and those of British Gas, were to be sold. The chief political argument in favour of the bonds has thus disappeared.

An announcement of the decision to drop the bonds is unlikely, however, until after Christmas, perhaps next spring. Until then, the bonds remain "under consideration".

It is still not known exactly how the Government's privatization plans will be put into operation. But there have been reports that the British Gas Corporation may be ordered to sell its offshore oil interests to BNOC.

All BNOC's exploration and production assets, including those it had acquired from British Gas, would then be transferred to a separate company, a majority shareholding in which would be offered to the public.

Development controls on industry eased

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Government has decided to end the system of Industrial Development Certificates, designed originally to entice industry away from non-assisted areas of the country but which, it is now admitted, has outlived its usefulness.

Mr John MacGregor, Under Secretary of State for Industry, said in the Commons yesterday that despite recent relaxations in the issuing of certificates, the requirements remained a psychological barrier to investment which both unnecessarily delayed the planning process and were detrimental to industrial efficiency.

The certificates were introduced in 1947 as a means of checking industrial development in non-assisted areas and encouraging companies to expand in areas such as Wales and Scotland, where various forms of regional assistance were available.

Mr MacGregor, speaking in a debate on unemployment in the West Midlands, said that since 1975 only 28 out of 7,000 applications for certificates had been refused and there was little evidence that the procedure had caused companies to relocate projects in assisted areas.

In 1979, Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for Industry, increased the exemption limit for new developments in non-assisted areas from 15,000 sq ft (12,500 sq ft in the south east) to 50,000 sq ft but, Mr MacGregor said, the existence of the control still may have discouraged new investment in places such as the West Midlands.

Instead of legislating to abolish the certificates, which would increase pressure on parliamentary time, it had been decided to revoke the regulations on the issuing of the certificates and this would in effect suspend the system until further notice.

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday welcomed the decision.

Industry has blamed government hindrance, in the form of controls such as the certificates, for past decisions to locate new plants away from traditional centres of production. Among the most celebrated was the building of the Rootes car factory at Linwood, near Glasgow, which has now been closed by the Peugeot group.

SE starts Brown inquiry

By Peter Wainwright

The Quotations Committee of the Stock Exchange is looking into the controversy surrounding John Brown, the engineers. The group said on Wednesday that profits this year would be well down on the level expected at the time of a rights issue in September. The announcement at once sent the shares plunging 16p to 62p but after a further fall they recovered 3p yesterday to 61p.

The committee acted after the placing on Monday of 5 million shares through the leading brokers, James Capel. The shares are thought to have come from several institutions using the merchant banker, S. G. Warburg. Brown's own broker, Rowe & Pitman, said it was not approached.

The inquiry — the Stock Exchange avoids the term investigation—will probably be wide-ranging. In September, John Brown offered its shareholders 33 million shares at 76p in the proportion of one new share for every three held, to raise £24m. The issue was underwritten by J. Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant banker. Broker to the issue was Rowe & Pitman.

The rights issue (several brokers independent of the group made cheerful profit forecasts) was unsuccessful. Only a tenth of shareholders took up the new shares; the rest were absorbed by underwriters who may have been among the sellers in the Capel placing.

In its announcement on Wednesday, John Brown said serious management shortcomings were discovered recently in its machine tool division. A divisional loss of £4m this year was feared. The company added: "Conditions have materially worsened with evidence of a deepening recession in the United States and the disappointment of our hopes of some signs of recovery in the United Kingdom."

TUC urged to withdraw from Neddy

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Leaders of the Transport and General Workers Union yesterday launched a campaign to persuade the Trades Union Congress to pull out of tripartite talks with government ministers and leaders of industry. The union's executive decided on the move in an attempt to increase pressure on the Cabinet to scrap plans to curb the closed shop and make union funds liable to court action for damages.

Mr Moss Evans, TGWU general secretary, said: "It is foolish to sit on the National Economic Development Council and its sector working parties with the Government when legislation proposed by the employment secretary would reduce the ability of unions to do their job effectively."

As one of the TUC's top level Neddy Six, Mr Evans sits on the NEDC alongside CBI executives, and, with its breadth of membership across industry and the public services, his union is represented on a wide range of bodies.

Mr Evans has written to Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, proposing withdrawal from the NEDC. His letter is likely to be on the agenda of the TUC's employment policy and organization committee meeting.

The TUC has been round this course once before, over the original 1980 Employment Act, and at that time declined to break off contracts with government and business leaders. But Mr Evans argued yesterday: "I think there is a strong feeling on the TUC general council at the moment. If I am any judge of the situation, this proposal might be acceptable."



Mrs Julia Morley, organizer of the Miss World contest and her husband Mr Eric Morley, joint chairmen of Belhaven.

Miss World fails to help Belhaven

By Paul Maidment

The Miss World contest is not giving the boost to profits that the Belhaven Brewery Group thought it would when it bought a two-thirds stake in the company that runs Mr Eric Morley's annual beauty competition earlier this year.

The Dunbar based brewery, which is fast expanding into leisure interests under the joint chairmanship of Mr Morley, said yesterday that Miss World (Jersey) would not realize the profits that has been forecast on acquisition.

Belhaven stripped out the results of its Miss World subsidiary from its half year figures announced yesterday, but they still showed a hiccup in the group's recent recovery.

The company says that including the Miss World figures for the six months to September 30 could be very misleading. It says that it is known that sales for the full year will be about 20 per cent higher than for the last year, but greatly increased costs have been encountered. The contest has suffered from lack of sponsorship since Mr Morley left Mecca in 1979.

Judging from the increased income, the full year's post tax profits for Miss World should still exceed those of the previous year. Last year, the group reported post tax profits of £17,952 on turnover of £434,027.

The group as a whole expects that there will be little, if any, profit for the full year, although it looks forward to a marked improvement in the group's figures in the next financial year.

At the half way stage, profits excluding any contribution from Miss World were £187,000, 15.4 per cent lower than for the corresponding period last year.

☐ Belhaven says that in the light of current performance, it is not going to restore the six-monthly dividend.

Arms spending 23 pc above target

By Melvyn Westlake

Arms spending by the Ministry of Defence was running more than 23 per cent higher than expected during the first half of this financial year, according to the winter supplementary estimates laid before Parliament by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury. The estimates are the basic form in which the Government seeks approval for its spending from Parliament.

The amount by which the Ministry of Defence has exceeded its expected spending in the first six months of 1981-82 is already greater than the upward revision in cash limits announced on Wednesday. That announcement showed that the ministry's permitted cash-limited spending would be £319m higher than originally budgeted, at £11,854.2m. The latest figures will raise new fears about the inability of the Government to control its defence spending. The Ministry of Defence has persistently overspent its budget and its cash limit had to be revised sharply upwards last year.

The Treasury last night insisted that the defence spending in the first half year was not a reliable guide to the outcome for the year as a whole. It had been boosted by the effects of the Civil Service strike and a bunching of payments.

Yesterday's supplementary estimates were taken into account when the Chancellor announced in Tuesday's mini-Budget that public spending would be about £107,000m in the present financial year or £2,000m more than planned.

Bid failure fear sets off Fraser price fall

By Our Financial Staff

House of Fraser shares fell 12p to 162p yesterday after the publication of a newspaper report predicting that the Monopolies Commission will rule against a £225m bid from Lonrho, whose shares rose 2p to 80p.

The commission has been conducting a nine-month investigation into the bid from Lonrho which holds 29.9 per cent of the House of Fraser equity and its ruling is expected to be published next Monday or Tuesday.

The Department of Trade declined to comment on the suggestion that Lonrho's ambitions had been blocked by the commission, and both companies maintained yesterday that they had not been informed of its findings.

It is thought that if Lonrho does not receive clearance for a full-scale bid, the reasons put forward by the commission will include Lonrho's lack of retailing experience and the publicly expressed bad feeling between the Lonrho board and the House of Fraser directors headed by chairman Professor Roland Smith.

There is a precedent for the commission turning down a bid on the grounds of mutual management ill-will in the Rank Organization offer for De La Rue in 1969. It is thought that if Lonrho did succeed in gaining control, many of the House of Fraser directors would resign immediately.

Only Sir Hugh Fraser, former chairman of the retailing group which includes Harrods, supports Lonrho and its chief executive Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland. Sir Hugh switched his support to Lonrho in January.

House of Fraser fought off a bid from Boots in 1973 after a referral to the Monopolies Commission. In February this year Lonrho, which had acquired 29.9 per cent through its acquisition of Scottish and Universal Investments from House of Fraser, offered 150p in cash for each Fraser share which was quickly rejected by the board with the exception of Sir Hugh and Mr Philip Hawley.

House of Fraser's latest results show that pretax profits rose from £1.02m to £1.28m for the six months to last August.

Confusion as Marathon battle nears deadline

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Dec 4

The battle for Marathon Oil took another confusing turn yesterday as shareholders grappled with the choice of offers to accept by midnight in Washington, the deadline for two standing tenders from Mobil Oil, at $126 (£65) a share and US Steel at $125 a share.

The merger has come to a standstill, however, because of a court ruling temporarily blocking Mobil's $6,500m (£3,367m) bid on antitrust grounds, and another court ruling yesterday temporarily preventing US Steel from going ahead until a judge rules on a challenge from Mobil.

Meanwhile, shareholders are left to decide which offer to take based on their own forecast of likely outcome.

Mobil is at a disadvantage because of a court ban on antitrust grounds and another court's refusal to overturn the ban.

But it hopes to overcome this by sharing Marathon assets with another company which would take its refining and marketing operations in the mid-western states, while Mobil would keep its huge Texas oil reserves.

The two companies rumoured to be Mobil's most likely partner are Amerada Hess and Mesa Petroleum.

Mobil's challenge to US Steel's offer could well be upheld by a court in Columbus, Ohio, next week.

The antitrust challenge is, however, considered the more serious of the two cases.

JOBBING BREAK FOR A WOMAN

A woman has at last crashed into the male preserve of jobbing on the London Stock Exchange. Pinchin, Denny, a leading City jobbing firm, has appointed Miss Joanna Bunkham to deal on the gilts pitch.

At 20, she is extremely young for such an exacting position, to which she has been promoted after only two years with the firm.

At school in Southend she gained 10 "O" levels and an "A" level in English, and she is now awaiting the results of Stock Exchange practice examinations.

The Manchester exchange has had women jobbers for about five years. But London in the past 10 years has seen women on the floor only as clerks, called blue buttons, and there are a handful of women stockbrokers. It is unlikely, however, that Miss Bunkham will don the black top hat which traditionally gilts dealers have worn.

REAGAN MAY TAX GAS PROFIT

Washington, Dec 4.—The Reagan Administration is seriously considering accepting a windfall profits tax on the decontrol of natural gas prices, despite its previous rejection.

Administration officials have revived the idea as they grapple with huge budget problems for the fiscal year which starts next October. Depending on how it is structured, a windfall profits tax could yield $10,000m to $20,000m more a year, which would help narrow the huge budget deficits projected for 1983 and beyond.

The Administration has often said it philosophically favours natural gas decontrol, but it has stoutly opposed any windfall profits tax on the extra revenue such a move would generate for gas producers. Earlier this year, President Reagan promised a group of congressmen from energy-producing states that he would veto any such tax.

■ **Stock Markets**
FT Index 529.3 up 9.4
FT Gilts 64.61 up 0.56
FT All Share 312.04 up 3.01
Bargains 18,813

■ **Sterling**
$1.9420 up 70 points
Index 91.9 up 0.5
New York: $1.9372

■ **Dollar**
Index 105.5 down 0.5
DM2.2242 down 60 pts

■ **Gold**
$425.50 up $9.50
New York: $422.70

■ **Money**
3 mth sterling 14¾
3 mth Euro $ 12⅝-12½
6 mth Euro $ 12¾-12⅝

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

APV Hldgs	10p to 228p
Beecham	10p to 216p
Brkly Hambro	8p to 250p
Butterfld-Harvey	2½p to 29p
Expanded Metal	8p to 56p
GEC	10p to 789p
Imp Chem Ind	10p to 294p
Mercantile Hse	10p to 415p
Monk A.	4p to 58p
Mothercare	10p to 156p
Pilkington Bros	15p to 283p
Plessey	10p to 341p
Tilling T.	7p to 143p
Unigate	6p to 98p
Unilever	10p to 606p

Falls

Assam Frontier	5p to 200p
Cawoods	6p to 212p
Davies & Nwmn	7p to 68p
ERF Hldgs	3p to 37p
Greenall	4p to 133p
Hanson Trust	4p to 284p
Hill C Bristol	7p to 131p
Hoover	5p to 80p
House of Fraser	12p to 162p
Huntleigh	4p to 92p
Racal	7p to 411p
Routledge & K	5p to 135p
Trust Secs	10p to 318p
UKO Int	5p to 36p
Utd Scientific	8p to 505p

Setback for the dollar

The pound gained 70 points in London yesterday to finish at $1.9420. The dollar, which had fallen back late on Thursday after the United States Federal Reserve Board's one point cut in its discount rate to 12 per cent, received a further set back from bad unemployment figures but recovered late in the European day to close 60 points down at DM2.2242.

The Fed's cut, the second in a month, reflects both the deepening recession and a continuing decline in credit demand. Within minutes, prices of Treasury bonds rose sharply. The Treasury's 14 per cent bonds, due in 30 years, rising almost 2.5 points, or $25 for each $1,000 bond. The issue closed at 107½ to yield 12.99 per cent.

Analysts said the bond market rally, which began at the end of October, could be given new impetus. Most expect interest rates to continue to decline, with another discount rate cut next month, but to start rising by mid-year.

Japan's surprise

Japan's real growth in gross national product is likely to be 4 per cent this year and not the forecast 4.7 per cent, Government officials said in Tokyo after their economist announced an increase of only 0.6 per cent in the July to September quarter. They admitted the news was a surprise.

☐ France is to invest Fr2,300m (£207m) in its machine tool industry in an attempt to raise output by 100 per cent by 1985.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

The sauce of the Scots

A team of dons has had the sauce to invent a British soy sauce. Its efforts to rival the traditional Chinese product have won it the Confederation of British Industry Scotland innovation prize for 1981.

The dons, at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, plan to open a factory to capture a share of the £15m British market, supplied from China, Japan and Korea.

Mr Ted North, director of the university's Centre for Industrial Innovation, said: "We are taking some academic work from the micro-biology department and turning it into a business. We can match the Eastern product for price, quality and consistency.

"As the Japanese are drinking whisky made in Japan, so we can use soy sauce made here."

The team has raised cash to set up a factory at Cumbernauld, which will open in March and eventually employ 10 people. It plans to branch out with other soya bean products.

Playboy to seek its licences back

Playboy, which lost its gambling licences for its London casinos this year, will appeal to have the licences restored at Knightsbridge Crown Court on January 25. If the appeal fails, Trident Television which has agreed to buy the casinos, subject to shareholders' approval, will try to obtain licences. Trident is reported as saying that if it is successful in obtaining the licences it will scrap Playboy's image, including the bunnies.

SIR in £1,500m state rescue

The Italian Government approved yesterday a £1,520m plan to salvage the insolvent SIR chemical group, whose former head, Signor Nino Rovelli, is reported to have been abroad since an arrest warrant was issued.

New ICL links

ICL is to announce more collaborative ventures with computer and electronics companies on Monday. The management, which took control of the struggling computer manufacturer this summer, has already reached collaborative agreements with Fujitsu, of Japan, Three Rivers, of the United States, and Mitel, of Canada.

Car sales may boom

The Chrysler Corporation, which has not reported a full-year profit since 1977, expects to do so next year, the company said in Detroit yesterday. It said sales were expected to improve then.

But the company, which lost $1,700m (£877.5m) last year, said there would be a large loss this year. In the first nine months, the company has lost $436.1m, compared with $1,470m in the same period of last year, and the company said it was no secret that it expects a fourth-quarter loss.

In Paris, M Philippe Lamirault, Renault's sales director, said the French car marker may produce next year sales higher than last year's record of 1.97 million because of the age of French cars and technical innovations.

The 'flexible' Government

The Government's spending plans are a sign of its flexibility in dealing with changed circumstances, Mr Leon Brittan, the Treasury Chief Secretary, told Manchester Stock Exchange yesterday. He said the measures also showed the Government's determination to help industry.

Low interest rates could best be achieved by holding down borrowing and, he said, this was the most effective form of aid to industry. The Government was also helping employers by reducing the real burden on them of national insurance contributions, which had gone up less than inflation. Nationalized industries had been given increased allocations of funds.

Mr Brittan said the Treasury had not pressed to hold spending to the level planned at the time of the Budget. All the Cabinet discussions had been about how much increase to allow.

☐ The Brazilian inflation rate fell to 99.1 per cent last month—the first time it has been below 100 per cent for 18 months.

Insurance

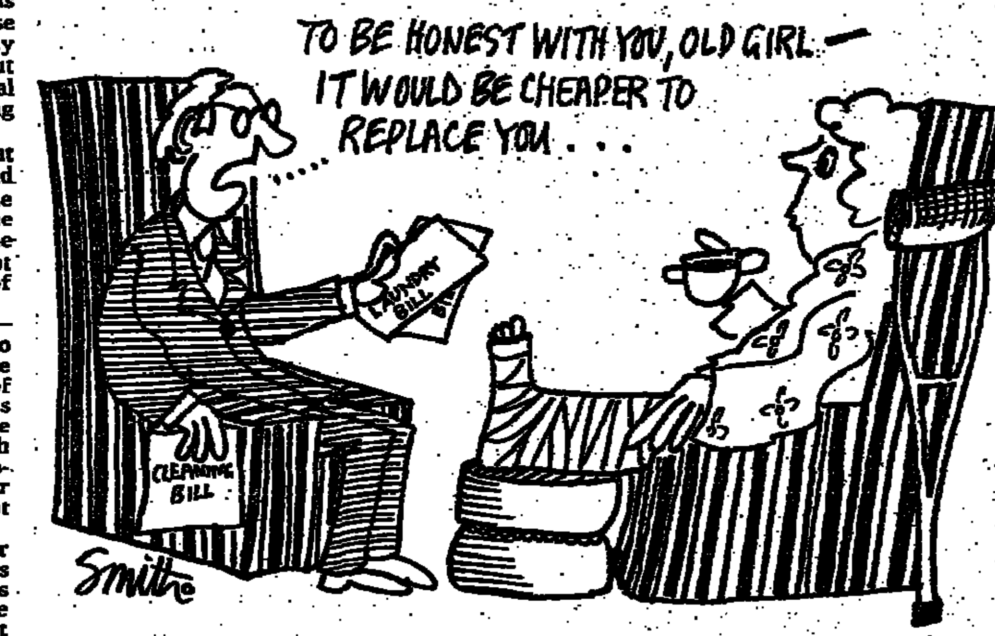
Wives get a raw deal

Last year a friend was badly injured when her horse fell on top of her. Happily she made a full recovery, but only after weeks in hospital and months more hobbling gingerly around at home.

Her husband had great difficulty paying for and organizing help with the children, the house and the washing. "What a pity" she said to me "that I was not insured for this sort of thing".

But few housewives are — mainly because insurers do not like this end of the business. Only a handful of companies among the dozens now cashing in on the booming permanent health insurance market will provide disability insurance for wives or mothers who do not work.

They are all, on the other hand, falling over themselves to sell non-working wives term life insurance on the basis of their replacement cost.



The hypocrisy of this attitude was pointed out recently by a reader who has been confused by the difficulties of finding permanent health cover for his wife. "Legal and General has recently obtained a great deal of publicity for its campaign to sell term insurance for wives,". he said. "A few weeks ago L and G assessed the worth of a wife's work at £204 a week."

As he so rightly points out, the same problems of paying for a replacement for a wife's services arises if she is ill or injured as well. But Legal and General, like many of its competitors, refuses to touch this business.

The standard excuse for not giving cover to non-earning wives is the difficulty, they claim, of assessing whether a claimant is really disabled or ill enough to be incapable of performing their housewifely duties.

So who will sell permanent health insurance to non-working wives? At present only Commercial Union, Langham Life, Norwich Union, the Permanent, Phoenix and Yorkshire General offer these policies. Most will cover for a maximum of £40 a week for the non-earning housewife with Commercial Union going to £60 a week — still hardly within shouting distance of £204 figure trumpeted by L and G.

Rates vary according to the insurer, the age of the insured and the deferment period — that is the number of weeks of illness or incapacity the policyholder agrees to waive before claiming.

A 28-year-old woman insuring for £40 a week with a deferment period of 13 weeks would pay annual premiums of £37.20 at Norwich Union, £41.16 at Phoenix and £54 at Commercial Union. Stretching the deferment period to 26 weeks the annual premiums drop £27.60, £36.12, £42.27 respectively.

A 40-year-old-woman insuring for £40 a week with a deferment period of 13 weeks would pay annual premiums of £55.20 at Norwich Union, £60.96 at Phoenix and £78.10 at Commercial Union with 26 weeks deferment the figures would be £41.60, £51.56 and £61.96 respectively.

But virtually all the insurance companies load the premiums paid by women whether they are housewives or income earners. In some cases they may be expected to cough up 50 per cent more than a man. Moreover, with the exception of Langham Life they all exclude pregnancy or pregnancy related problems or qualify the benefit in some way. Commercial Union for instance has a straight exclusion. Norwich Union and several of the others add a three months extra waiting time onto the deferment period if the illness is pregnancy related.

Whether or not these extra loadings and exclusions are justified is now the subject of heated discussion in insurance circles. As we wrote on October 31, the Equal Opportunities Commission is backing the case of Mrs June Almeida against Legal and General, the housewives friend. She found her company group permanent health scheme excluded "ailments peculiar to the female sex".

The hearing has been delayed several times at the behest of L and G which, it appears, is having some difficulty in putting up any acceptable actuarial evidence in support of this discrimination

Margaret Drummond

Christmas bonus for pensioners

This week most of the 11 million or so pensioners who qualify should have received their £10 Christmas bonus from the Government.

Now that the bonus has become a regular feature, by law, the Department of Health and Social Security has streamlined the way in which it is paid. For most pensioners, the bonus is included in their pension or benefit books and paid automatically in the week in which it falls due. Some pensioners are still paid by post, however, but even so the majority in this situation should also have received the extra cash

Because the bonus is now a legal entitlement, the groups of people who get it are laid down in law and do not change from year to year. As in previous years, the bulk of those qualifying are the nine million retirement pensioners and those living on supplementary pensions.

In addition, war widow, industrial widow and ordinary widow pensioners also qualify. So too do those receiving invalidity pensions, non-contributory invalidity pension, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance, invalid care allowance and a war pension or industrial injury unemployability supplement.

War disablement pensioners who have passed pension age and retired, but who for some reason are not getting one of the qualifying benefits, also are entitled to the bonus.

Anyone who feels that he or she should have received a bonus and who has not done so by the end of the month should get in touch with their nearest DHSS office.

Ian McDonald

Interest rates

Banks drag their feet

Home buyers with a loan from one of the high street banks have been given a clear indication of what to expect in future.

Bank base rates have now come down a full 1.5 per cent since October 8 when the banks last fixed their new "stabilized" mortgage rates, yet there is still no firm commitment to a cut for bank home buyers.

It cannot have escaped borrowers attention that the mortgage rate was "stabilized" at the most advantageous moment for the banks— when rates had peaked.

The notion that borrowers will recoup their losses because the banks will be equally slow about adjusting rates on the way up is almost certainly wishful thinking. The excuse offered by the banks for not cutting mortgage rates is that they did not push them up far enough last time round.

This may well be true but the uneasy feeling remains that they are not going to be out of pocket on their lending to home buyers and if they do not make their profit one way they will recoup it another. Until the banks cut their home loan rates the building societies will not move.

However, bank customers with an overdraft will benefit straight away from the 0.5 per cent cut in base rates; overdraft rates come down from around 18 to 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent or more. Personal loan rates are unchanged.

For investors—particularly children and pensioners who pay little or no tax— National Savings Bank investment account at 15 per cent now offers a worthwhile differential over bank seven-day deposit rates and there is a real incentive to make the switch, though money funds like Simco and Tyndall paying just under 15 per cent offer a more flexible alternative to the NSB Investment Account.

A money fund offers withdrawal on seven days notice and investments earn interest up to the time of withdrawal. NSB has an unnecessarily complicated system wherby interest is paid on whole pounds invested for whole calendar months and it is therefore almost impossible to achieve the advertised 15 per cent.

Basic rate taxpayers who want easy access to their money will undoubtedly do best with a building society extra interest account. Almost all the societies now run them, though the terms vary (usually the notice period) and some impose interest rate penalties even if you give the required notice of withdrawal. These are the accounts to avoid.

Most of the big, first division societies pay a full 1 per cent over the BSA recommended rate on extra interest accounts and there are dozens of smaller societies offering anything up to 11.75 per cent on six-months' notice accounts — Guardian, Holmesdale Benefit and Lambeth to mention three.

If you do not want your money tied up for long periods, the Bolton (London based) Chatham Reliance and Peckham Mutual all offer 11 per cent net of basic rate tax for money on one month's notice of withdrawal.

Returns at Varying Rates of Tax

	Non-taxpayer %	30%	60%
Bank 7-day deposits			
(Lloyds, Natwest, Barclays)	12.5	8.75	5.0
(Midland)	12.25	8.5	4.9
Building Societies			
*Extra interest accounts	10.75	10.75	6.6
NSB investment account	15.0	10.5	6.0
Local authority yearling bonds	14.625	10.2	5.8
Money Funds	14.9	10.4	5.9

* Notice periods will vary between societies.

Taxation

Divorce — a Revenue problem

Frustration over the Government's avoidance of implementing any reform of the tax system is beginning to reach boiling point. Even the Law Society, an organization not exactly renowned for hasty pronouncements, has been moved to make a special plea for urgent amendments to the tax system to redress some of the glaring inequities.

An accelerating divorce rate and a much higher incidence of working wives are just two of the social changes which have not been reflected in our system of taxation.

"Under current tax laws, a separated spouse and parent is placed in a far more advantageous tax position than a married spouse, and this appears to be contrary to public policy" says the Law Society in its memorandum to the Inland Revenue.

The present income tax rules treat a married woman's income as though it were part of her husband's income. Not surprisingly in these days of sex equality, this has been regarded as a particularly grating anomaly.

The Government published a Green Paper on the *Taxation of husband and wife* in December 1980, setting out various optional methods of doing away with inequities. It then virtually brushed the whole matter under the carpet by announcing that there was no chance of any implementation until the end of the decade at the earliest.

Most of the professional organizations which have submitted representations to the Revenue on the Green Paper have come down heavily in favour of total separation for tax purposes of the affairs of husband and wife.

The Equal Opportunities Commission is pressing hard for the most radical solution — the abolition of the married man's allowance and the surplus to be used to increase child benefits, and other organizations and individuals have supported this line.

And this option would also solve the anomalies complained of by the Law Society in its recent memorandum to the Revenue. It points out that under the present rules, the break-up of a marriage leads to a radically different tax treatment compared with married couples who stay together.

Drew Johnston

Your money markets best buys

Banks
Current account — no interest paid. Deposit accounts — Midland 12¼ per cent, Lloyds NatWest and Barclays 12½ per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. For sums of £10,000 or more rate fixed for the term. Fixed-term deposits — 1 month, 13½ per cent; 3 months, 13½ per cent; 6 months, 13¾ per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Money Funds
Simco 7-day fund, 14.96 per cent; UDT Average Rate Deposit Fund, 15⅞ per cent; Tyndall 7-day fund, 15 per cent; Simco dollar fund, $11.49 per cent; interest paid without deduction of tax. Further details from Simco (01-236 0233), Tyndall (0272-732241), UDT (scheme now closed to new investment).

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts — interest 5 pc, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — *15 pc, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £5,000, return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail prices index, 4 pc bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 certificates purchased in December 1976, £189.75 including 4 pc bonus.

National Savings certificates — 23rd issue
Return totally free of all taxes, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five year term of 10.5 pc, maximum investment £5,000.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts — 9.75 pc. Term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 pc and 2 pc over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 pc over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Local authority yearling bonds
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 14¾ pc basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). Best offers: 1 year, Kingston-upon-Hull 13¾ pc; 2-5 years, Swansea, 14¾ pc; 6-7 years, Hampshire 15 pc; 8-10 years, East Herts 14¾ pc;
Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance Loans Bureau (01-828 7855, after 3 pm). See also on Prestel no 24808.

Finance for Industry
Fixed-term, fixed-rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3-4 years, 13¼ pc; 5-6 years, 13½ pc; 7 years, 13¾ pc; 8-9 years, 14 pc; 10 years, 14¼ pc. Further information from FFI, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. For sums of £10,000 or more: 1 month, 14 pc; 3 months, 14¼ pc; 6 months, 14 pc; 12 months, 13⅞ pc.

Foreign currency deposits*
Interest paid without deduction of tax.

	Call	7-days notice
US dollar	9⅝ p.c.	9½ p.c.
Yen	4⅝ p.c.	4¼ p.c.
D. Mark	7⅞ p.c.	7¾ p.c.
French Franc	11½ p.c.	11¾ p.c.
Swiss Franc	2⅞ p.c.	2¾ p.c.

*Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

Loans for home buyers cut

Abbey National Building Society is cutting its rates to first - time borrowers and reducing the differentials charged to those who borrow more than average.

First time buyers will be able to borrow up to £15,000 at 14.5 per cent — 0.5 per cent below the current basic rate — and the reduction will last for the first year of the loan. After that date, the interest rate reverts to the normal basic rate of 15 per cent.

The thresholds for charging higher rates for larger borrowers have been raised also to £25,000 — below that figure borrowers will pay the usual 15 per cent. For loans between £25,000 and £30,000 the rate will be 15.5 per cent and above that figure loans will cost 16 per cent. The new rates will apply to existing borrowers from April 1, 1982.

Car tax dilemma

A disabled Danish woman who works in a hostel for the homeless in Oxford fears she will have to leave Britain after being ordered to pay £400 tax on her car, or have it impounded. Miss Margit Veje, aged 30, a spina bifida sufferer, bought the car in Denmark.

EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE



Mr Bill Wittering: compensation came in the form of an apology.

Home sellers — beware

When Mr Bill Wittering bought his house near Royston in Hertfordshire, the *estate agent's particulars told* him it had main drainage. It was only after he had moved in that he discovered this was not true. What he had was an inefficient septic tank, which had to be emptied periodically at a cost of £26. It eventually cost him £150 to connect the house to the sewer. All that he got from the estate agents by way of compensation was an apology.

Mr Wittering ran foul of one of the anomalous and potentially costly booby traps which litter the complex minefield of consumer law. Two MPs who have drawn high places in the ballot for private members' Bills are determined to defuse this situation.

Estate agents' particulars are not subject to the Trade Descriptions Act, and are as a consequence, notoriously imaginative and unreliable.

My own house, I recall, was described as being "on the borders of leafy Canonbury" though it is much closer to treeless Dalston Junction. In Cornwall I once viewed a house where the agents' description failed to mention that the peculiar layout dictated that the street door opened into the main bedroom, and from North Wales I was sent a set of particulars which carried a photograph of the wrong house.

On file at the Consumers' Association there are cases in which a freehold turned out to be leasehold; where a "panoramic view" was found to be dominated by a rubbish tip; and in which every room in the house had been wrongly measured so that, for example, a bedroom claimed to be 9ft 7in by 8ft 9in was only 9ft 3in by 6ft 3in.

Most people are luckier than Mr Wittering, and discover the mistakes and mis-statements before they are committed to the house — but not always before they have incurred expenses in travelling to look at properties, or in commissioning surveys.

The situation will change if Mr Gwilym Roberts, MP for Cannock, succeeds with his Trade Descriptions (Amendment) Bill, which would make it an offence for an estate agent to describe properties inaccurately.

The Bill, which is sponsored by Consumers' Association, also aims to remedy another deficiency in the Trade Descriptions Act which was highlighted as long ago as 1976, when the late Sir John Methven, as Director General of Fair Trading, carried out a review. This is that tour operators and other businesses providing services are treated more leniently than shopkeepers and others selling goods.

With services, traders who make false or misleading statements only commit an offence if they do it knowingly or recklessly.

This is why misdescriptions in holiday brochures almost invariably go unpunished by anything worse than public reprimands in the reports of the Advertising Standards Authority, which has recently remarked quite a spate of them. Though the swimming pool proves to be a rubble filled building site, and the beach is 10 miles away instead of 10 minutes, the tour operator has only committed an offence if it can be shown the correct information was available when the brochure was prepared.

Robin Young

Unit trusts

Eastern funds set the pace

With only a month of the year remaining, funds specializing in Japan and other Far Eastern stock markets look set to take the laurels in the 1981 unit trust league table. This time they make a clean sweep of the top 10.

The runners-up this month, though, show a number of changes. Trusts investing in North America have lost ground. They mounted a strong challenge *four weeks ago taking roughly* half of the first 30 places in the listing for the year.

Funds concentrating on the American market have been affected by interest rate considerations on both sides of the Atlantic. Throughout November leading United States banks announced a number of cuts in their lending rates.

Apart from the benefit for the corporate sector, it is thought that if American interest rates continue to decline, the trend could shake out some of the mountains of cash lodged in United States money funds for reinvestment in the equity market. Balanced against these bullish factors are the poor prospects for the American economy. Faced with this two-way pull, the Dow Jones industrial index rose a little over 4 per cent last month.

What has offset this gain for United Kingdom investors has been the recent appreciation of sterling against the dollar. Sterling rose just over 5 per cent against the dollar during November. A strong *pound/sterling comparison*, of course, reduces investment gains on Wall Street, so a lot depends on how long the trend continues.

HK Unit Trust Managers, part of the Hongkong Bank Group, apparently believes the trend won't last long. Commenting at the end of last month on prospects for its American Trust, the managers attributed sterling's strength to its recent differential yield above the dollar's rate, which they do not see as being sustained.

"We expect sterling to weaken to $1.80-$1.85 as United Kingdom interest rates fall, caused by political expediency and other market factors", they said.

One group of trusts which performed well was income funds. The significant jump in the building and engineering sectors, which several managers favour for income stocks, was a key contributing factor. Four weeks ago, only one income trust, Perpetual Income, appeared among the first 50. This time 10 income funds gain entry.

Perpetual Income still leads the competition in seventeenth position, with Henderson Income & Growth nine places behind.

The strong performance of the *FT* Actuaries All Share index (up 10 per cent) compared with several other major stock exchange indices last month has sharply cut the proportion of all unit trusts, which have kept ahead of our market pace setter this year.

Mike Hocking

Due to pressure on space we have been obliged to hold over the full unit trust performance tables. These will be published next Saturday.

Unit trust performance table

Value of £100 invested over 11 months to December 1 (net income reinvested)

	£s
1. Hill Samuel Far East	152.90
2. Arbuthnot Eastn & Int	140.40
3. Crescent Tokyo	139.50
4. Gartmore Japan	139.00
5. S & P Japan Growth	138.40
6. Henderson Japan	138.10
7. Midland Draylon Japan	136.50
8. GT Japan & Gen	135.90
9. Chieftain Far Eastern	132.70
10. Target Pacific	131.30
FT All-Shares Index	112.10

Source: Planned Savings magazine.

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week

This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday — FT index change on week 529.3 + 4.1 (0.8%)

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Offshore and International Funds

Prev W'end Offer	Ch'ge on Week	Trust	Bid	Current Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
116	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	116	+1	10.0	8.6	—	—
76	39	Airsprung Group	66	—	4.7	7.1	10.5	14.5
52	21	Armitage & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
200	92½	Bardon Hill	192	+1	9.7	5.1	9.3	11.4
104	88	Deborah Services	89	—	5.5	6.2	4.4	8.3
126	88	Frank Horsell	122	—	6.4	5.2	11.0	26.5
110	39	Frederick Parker	62	+1	1.7	2.7	27.0	—
110	46	George Blair	46	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	100	—	7.3	7.3	7.2	10.9
113	59	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
130	103	James Burrough	112xd	+2	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	244	Robert Jenkins	263xd	—	31.3	11.9	3.7	9.3
59	50	Scruttons "A"	54xd	+1	5.3	9.8	8.3	7.7
224	168	Torday & Carlisle	168	—5	10.7	6.4	5.4	10.0
23	8	Twinlock Ord	13½	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	Twinlock 15% ULS	72xi	—	15.0	20.8	—	—
56	32	Unilock Holdings	32	—	3.0	9.4	5.7	9.7
103	78	Walter Alexander	78	—1	6.4	8.2	5.1	9.1
263	181	W. S. Yeates	214	—	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.2

Stock markets

US rate cut lifts equities

It took another 1 per cent reduction to 12 per cent in America's federal discount rate to put a bit of pep back into the market yesterday and so end the account on a firm note.

Dealers reported a sharp increase in buying activity among equities which earlier in the week discounted the ½ of one per cent cut in domestic interest rates and the details of the Chancellor's economic package.

Faced with the prospect of a long 2½ week account leading up to the Christmas break, the market appeared in a cheerful mood last night with heavy interest in new-time buying. The *FT* Index, after opening 5.5 up, closed at its high for the day 9.4 up at 529.3, a rise on the account of 9.1.

Prospects for the new account look bright as institutions are likely to be unwilling sellers in order to present the best possible picture for their year-end balances.

Gilts were also stimulated by the renewed pressure to lower domestic interest rates and the Government Broker was able to exhaust the remaining supplies of the special short tap Treasury 3 per cent 1985 at £73¼.

Elsewhere prices rose by as much as £1 in longs, having opened the day £1 higher, while in shorts the rises were restricted to between £⅛ and £¼.

Rumours of a bid for European Ferries from Trafalgar House, which last week sold its 15 per cent stake in French Kier for £6.4m, lifted the price 3p to 73p yesterday. The rumours come ahead of the Monopolies Commission's report on Euroferries' bid for Sealink due next week and Trafalgar House's full year figures which are expected to show profits up from £47m to £52m.

Blue chips were able to score some sizable gains including John Brown, 3p higher at 61p, *following recent weakness over* forecast losses of £4m at its machine tool division. Distillers was a strong feature, jumping 8p to 188p supported by the latest whisky export figures which are said to be the best for several years. Elsewhere, ICI rose 10p to 194p, Beecham 10p to 216p, Glaxo 8p to 420p, Unilever 10p to 608p, Fisons 5p to 143p, Courtaulds 4p to 77p, Dunlop 3p to 70p, GKN 4p to 167p and Hawker Siddeley 6p to 320p.

On the bid front, Berec leapt 21p to 151p following the *increased offer of 150p a share* from Hanson Trust, down 4p at 284p. Brokers Hoare Govett were able to buy 3.39m shares in Berec representing 5.01 per cent of the total at 150p on behalf of Hanson which now holds around 21 per cent.

Thomas Tilling, which has made a one-for-one share offer worth 130p a share for Berec, rose 7p to 143p on the news.

Crosby House, suspended in October, returned to the market following its acquisition of Jazerite 23p higher at 153p.

Braham Millar, also back from suspension, was 2p up at 26p following the outcome of Bath & Portland's bid for 15 per cent of the company which took its total stake up to just under 30 per cent.

Findlay Hardware was suspended at 26p after announcing that the group was in discussions that might lead to an offer.

Meanwhile, Hayters made a bright start to dealings on the USM closing at 165p, a premium of 15p over the offer price. Nimslo, which made a disastrous debut on the USM, rallied further to close 5p up at 155p.

The release of the official offer document added 3p to City Offices with its suitor Greycoat Estates up by 3p at 178p.

There was strong new time demand for Expanded Metal, up 8p at 56p, amid rumours of a possible bid. English China Clays rose 3p to 157p as another large buyer took to the field ahead of some promising figures due out soon.

In stores, House of Fraser shumped 12p to 162p ahead of Monday's report from the Monopolies Commission into the bid by Lonrho, up 2p at 80p. By contrast, Great Universal Stores 'A' rose 13p to 423p ahead of figures due out soon and Boots put on 5p at 199p.

Mothercare shares jumped 10p to 156p yesterday after the release of a bullish circular from brokers L. Messel which appears in stark contrast to the gloomy noises being made by other brokers. Last year profits of Mothercare fell £4.1m to £17.9m.

GEC rallied 10p to 789p after Thursday's half-year report, along with Plessey, 10p up at 341p and Ferranti, 3p up at 583p, Cable and Wireless, reporting forecast profits next week, hardened to 200p.

Equity turnover on December 3 was £122.613m (13,849 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: Hanson Trust, Double Eagle, House of Fraser, Candecca, Berec, Royal Bank of Scotland and Midland.

Traded options: Total contracts amounted to 1,300 of which Imperial Group accounted for 234.

Traditional options saw calls in Nimslo on 24p, Premier on 6p and Brown & Jackson on 6p. A double was made in Royal Bank of Scotland on 43p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Castings (I)	2.03(3.07)	0.19(0.21)	1.38(1.52)	0.4(0.4)	15/1	—(2.42)
Belhaven Brewery (I)	5.72(3.77)	0.19(0.22)	0.91(1.54)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Fred Cooper (F)	12.8(16.06)	0.33*(0.81)	—(—)	1(1)	30/1	1.5(1.3g)
Crystalate (F)	14.4(16.5)	1.38(1.38)	7.98(3.78)	1.7(1.5)	—	1.7(1.5)
Evered (I)	4.38(6.65)	0.2*(0.24*)	3.5*(4.3*)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Highgate & Job (I)	3.98(3.95)	0.12*(0.096*)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Newman Inds. (I)	37.37(40.39)	1.3*(0.29)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Sumrie Clothes (I)	1.25(1.77)	0.13*(0.17*)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(1.5)
UKO Int (I)	24.3(26.3)	0.048(1.1)	—(—)	—(2.0)	—	—(5.0)
Wagon Indust (I)	24.5(21.3)	0.88(1.53)	2.09(5.77)	2(2)	22/3	—(5.0)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. * = Loss; g = Adjusted for scrip issue.

Esperanza advises rejection of RIT bid

By Michael Prest

While announcing a slight fall in half-year pretax profits to £2.02m, Esperanza, the international services group, has recommended that shareholders reject the offer of 130p a share for the company from RIT.

For its part, RIT is unlikely to increase the offer. Esperanza shares *last night stood at 140p*, and RIT does not expect to increase its holding in Esperanza beyond the present 39 per cent.

Esperanza has more than 160 subsidiaries in 48 countries, mainly providing services to the shipping industry. In the six months to the end of September these services earned £2.33m pretax compared with £2.31m pretax in the same period of last year.

The slightly lower pretax results were caused, however, by the aftermath of closing the *Limni copper mine in Cyprus*.



Lord Kissin, chairman of Esperanza.

Losses attributable to copper and pyrites were £34,000 against £56,000 in profits last year.

A bigger tax charge of £1.31m and larger payments to minorities has cut attributable earnings from £726,000 to £443,000. Earnings per share are therefore 3.7p instead of 6.4p.

Pretax profits for the whole of last year were £3.82m, but the company argues that the trend is improving and justifies maintaining the dividend at 3.57p gross.

Esperanza's chairman is Lord Kissin. Guinness Peat sold its *remaining 9 per cent of a long*-standing stake in Esperanza to RIT last month.

Hanson raises bid for Berec to 150p a share

By Paul Maidment

Hanson Trust has upped its bid for Berec and says it now holds a 21.5 per cent stake in the battery manufacturer for whom it is struggling for control with another industrial holding group, Thomas Tilling.

Hanson's revised offer of 150p in cash, or loan stock valued at 154p, for each Berec share tops Tilling's one-for-one share offer which is supported by the Berec board. Tilling's offer is due to expire on December 10, four days before Hanson's earlier offer, valued at 114p, was due to run out.

Berec had condemned Hanson's original offer as "totally inadequate, opportunistic and lacking in commercial logic".

Yesterday, Berec's chairman, Mr Colin Stapleton, said only that he was "considering the situation" after Hanson's revised bid. In the meantime, he advised Berec shareholders not to accept that nor Tilling's bid.

Tilling was also making no comment about whether it would revise its own offer. Mr Francis Black, its financial director, said the group was considering the position as well.

On the Stock Exchange, Berec's share price jumped 21p to 151p, a high for the year, following Hanson's announcement. Hanson's own price dipped 4p to 284p, while Tilling's shares gained 7p to 143p.

Hanson said it bought 3.39m Berec shares in the market at 150p yesterday. That amounts to a 5.1 per cent stake. It also said it had received acceptances for 0.71 per cent as a result of its earlier offer.

With other purchases, Hanson said it now had 21.5 per cent of Berec. The bulk of this was gained in a £9m dawn raid earlier this year.

Crosby names terms for Jazerite takeover

Crosby House, the consumers-to-general trading holding company, announced yesterday terms for its acquisition of Jazerite, a private plantations and commodities company substantially owned by members of the Robinow family. One, Mr R M Robinow, is a director of Crosby House. Another, Mr Herman Robinow, will be joining the Crosby House board.

Once the deal is completed existing Jazerite shareholders will control Crosby House through holdings of 47.9 per cent of its ordinary shares and 46.1 per cent of the voting shares.

As consideration for Jazerite's capital, Jazerite shareholders will receive 588,555 new Crosby House shares, worth £900,000 on the basis of yesterday's market price of 153p each. Trading in Crosby House shares resumed yesterday after being suspended on November 23, when the price was 135p.

The consideration includes 384,615 new deferred Crosby House shares and £553,000 of loan notes. Crosby House also intends to capitalize its £446,000 interest free loan from Jazerite with an equivalent amount of its loan notes.

Crosby House says it intends its existing business and that of Jazerite to be retained. It believes the acquisition will create its profits generating base and create a group with greater growth potential than it possesses alone.

The company also says that it believes the acquisition will enable it to resume paying dividends on ordinary shares at an earlier date than would otherwise have been possible. Crosby House last paid a dividend in November 1977.

UKO falls to £48,000 in tough half

By Margareta Pagano

UKO International, the spectacle manufacturer, blames intense competition at home and overseas for the slump in pretax profits from £1.1m to £48,000 in the half-year to September.

This continues the deterioration in trading seen in the second half of last year which made full-year profits fall sharply from £3.7m to £1.35m.

UKO's ophthalmic division plunged from a profit of £521,000 to losses of £287,000 in the six months to September on sales that slid by £700,000 to £19.3m. The core of its business is sales of standard National Health lenses which are produced on expensive, capital intensive equipment.

To meet the low level of demand UKO has had to further reduce its lens stockholdings by improving the efficiency of its warehousing and despatch operations. Sir Ian Morrow, the chairman, said this has again placed a burden on factory profitability, as production has been held well below the level of sales.

Sales volume was similar to that of *the second half of last* year when the division lost £157,000. The more expensive fashion frames and tints and coatings for spectacles have also met with poor demand. Total group sales went down from £26.4m to £24.3m.

UKO's catering division, suplying kitchen equipment to hotels and commercial concerns, fared rather better but still produced a lower profit of £335,000 compared with £586,000 in the same period. In the second half, trading began to slip with profits down at £404,000. Sales fell by just over £1m to £4.9m.

Baird to acquire Dannimac

By Our Financial Staff

William Baird, the textile group, has reached agreement on the acquisition of Dannimac, the raincoat manufacturer and distributor. It involves the transfer of the two Dannimac partnerships into two limited companies.

Baird is paying for the purchase through the allotment of 2.3 million new ordinary shares of £1 fully paid and £4.3m in cash. The total consideration on settlement will be £8.3m.

Mr Tom Parr, chairman of Baird, said yesterday that his company had been interested in Dannimac for two reasons: "One, we are both in the outerwear business and two, Dannimac is a well-established name with a good distribution and is also very successful".

The acquisition adds three factories to Baird Group, which already has 35 throughout the country.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN Bank	14½%
Barclays	14½%
BCCI	15%
Consolidated Crds	15%
C. Hoare & Co	*14½%
Lloyds Bank	14½%
Midland Bank	14½%
Nat Westminster	14½%
TSB	14½%
Williams & Glyn's	14½%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 12½%, up to £50,000 13%, over £50,000 13½%.

Wall Street

New York, Dec 4.—Stocks finished strongly higher in reaction to the cut in the Federal Reserve's discount rate to 12 per cent. But the greater part of the rise was in early trading

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 8.84 points at 892.69. It gained up about 11 points at its best.

Advances were heaviest during the morning and totalled 55 million shares compared with 44.7 million yesterday.

The Stock Market received its big boost from the discount rate cut to 12 per cent from 13 per cent

	Dec 4	Dec 3
Allied Chem	47½	46¼
Allied Stores	25¾	25¼
Allis Chalmers	18½	17¾
Alcoa	26¾	27
Amax Inc	50¾	47¾
Amerada Hess	26¾	26¼
Am Airlines	13½	13½
Am Brands	38¾	38¾
Am Broadcast	36	36¾
Am Can	34¼	34¼
Am Cyanamid	28	28¼
Am Elec Power	16¼	16½
Am Home	36½	36¼
Am Motors	2¾	2¾
Am Nat Res	43	42¼
Am Standard	30	29¾
Am Telephone	58¾	58¾
AMF Inc	26¾	22¾
Armco Steel	28¼	28½
Asarco	28¾	28¾
Ashland Oil	29½	34¼
Atlantic Richfield	45½	47¼
Avco	20¾	19½
Avon Products	32¾	32¼
Bankers Tst NY	35¾	35
Bank of America	24	23½
Bank of NY	43¾	43½
Beatrice Foods	18¾	18¾
Bendix	57¾	58¼
Bethlehem Steel	23	22¾
Boeing	23½	23
Boise Cascade	36½	36¼
Borden	28¾	28¾
Borg Warner	27½	28¼
Bristol Myers	56	56¼
BP	25¾	26¾
Burlington Ind	23¼	22¾
Burlington Nthn	55¼	55¼
Burroughs	34¾	34¼
Campbell Soup	29	28¾
Canadian Pacific	35¾	34¾
Caterpillar	58¾	58¾
Celanese	59½	59½
Central Soya	12½	11¾
Chase Manhat	55¾	54½
Chem Bank NY	55	54
Chrysler	3½	3¾
Citicorp	26¾	26¼
Cities Service	50¾	50¼
Clark Equip	27¾	27½
Coca Cola	35¼	35¼
Colgate	16¾	16¼
CBS	46¼	47¾
Columbia Gas	34½	34¼
Combustion Eng	37½	37½
Comwith Edison	22	21¾
Cons Edison	32½	32½
Cons Foods	33¾	33½
Cons Power	17½	17¼
Continental Grp	34¾	34½
Control Data	37½	36¾
Corning Glass	56¾	56½
CPC Intnl	33¾	33¼
Crane	35¾	35¾
Crocker Int	32¾	32¾
Crown Zeller	31	31½
Dart & Kraft	54	53¾
Deere	38½	38¼
Delta Air	27	26½
Detroit Edison	12¾	12½
Disney	49¾	50¼
Dow Chemical	27¼	26¾
Dresser Ind	37¼	36¾
Duke Power	21¾	21¾
Du Pont	40½	39¾
Eastern Air	6¼	6½
Eastman Kodak	70¾	70½
Eaton Corp	31¾	31½
El Paso Nat Gas	24¾	24½
Equitable Life	9¾	9½
Esmark	53½	53¾
Evans P. D.	20¾	20½
Exxon Corp	32½	32½
Fed Dept Stores	36½	37¼
Firestone	11½	11½
Fst Chicago	19¾	19¼
Fst Intrst Bncp	38¾	38¼
Fst Nat Boston	46¼	46
Fst Penn Corp	3¾	3½
Ford	19¼	18¾
GAF Corp	13¾	13½
Gen Dynamics	24	23¾
Gen Electric	59¾	59½
Gen Foods	31½	31¼
Gen Mills	36¾	36¼
Gen Motors	39¾	37½
Gen Pub Util NY	6½	6¾
Gen Tel Elec	31¼	31½
Gen Tire	25¾	24½
Genesco	7½	7½
Georgia Pacific	22¼	21¾
Getty Oil	67¼	66¼
Gillette	32¾	32½
Goodrich	21	20¾
Goodyear	18½	18¾
Gould Inc	23¾	23½
Grace	46¼	45
Gt Atlic & Pacific	4¼	4¼
Greyhound	16½	16¾
Grumman Corp	26¾	27
Gulf Oil	37¾	36¾
Gulf & West	17¼	16¾
Heinz H. J.	29¾	28¾
Hercules	21¾	21¼
Honeywell	71½	72
IC Inds	30¾	29¼
Ingersoll	59¾	58¾
Inland Steel	23¾	23¾
IBM	54¾	53¾
Int Harvester	8¼	7¾
INCO	15	14¾
Int Paper	41¼	41¾
Int Tel Tel	30	29¾
Irving Bank	52¾	51¾
Jewel Co	37¼	38
Jim Walter	20¾	20¼
Johnson & Johns	36¾	38
Kaiser Alumin	16	16
Kerr McGee	38¾	40¼
Kimberly Clark	66¼	66
K Mart	16½	16
Kruger	25¾	25
L.T.V. Corp	17¼	17½
Litton	57½	57
Lockheed	40¾	41½
Lucky Stores	13¾	13¾
Manuf Hanover	36¾	36¾
Manville Cp	15	14¾
Mapco	34¾	33½
Marathon Oil	102¼	102¾
Marine Midland	23½	24
Martin Marietta	33½	33¾
McDonnell	32¾	32½
Mead	25	24½
Merck	84¾	83¾
Minnesota Mng	54½	53¾
Mobil Oil	26¾	27
Monsanto	72	72
Morgan J. P.	56	55¾
Motorola	66¾	65¾
NCR Corp	42¾	41¼
NL Industries	42¾	42
Nabisco	37	36¾
Nat Distillers	24¼	24½
Nat Med Ent	18¾	18½
Nat Steel	24	24¾
Norfolk West	54	53¾
NW Bancorp	25¾	25¾
Norton Simon	18½	18
Occidental Pet	24¾	25¾
Ogden	28¾	28
Olin Corp	26¼	25¾
Owens-Illinois	30	29¾
Pacific Gas Elec	21¾	21¾
Pan Am	3½	3½
Penney J. C.	28¾	28½
Pennzoil	45¾	45¾
Pepsico	37¼	37½
Pfizer	50¾	50¾
Phelps Dodge	34¾	35
Philip Morris	52¾	50¾
Phillips Petrol	43	42¾
Polaroid	22	22½
PPG Ind	40¼	40¾
Proctor Gamble	80¾	79¾
Pub Ser El & Gas	19¾	19
Raytheon	42¼	41¾
RCA Corp	18¼	17¾
Republic Steel	23¾	23½
Reynolds Ind	48¾	48¾
Reynolds Metal	25½	24¾
Rockwell Int	30¾	29¾
Royal Dutch	36¾	36¾
Safeways	25¾	26½
St Regis Paper	32½	31¾
Santa Fe Ind	23	23
SCM	23¾	23¾
Schlumberger	58¾	55¾
Scott Paper	18	17¾
Seagram	57½	55¾
Sears Roebuck	18¾	18¼
Shell Oil	46¼	46
Shell Trans	31	30¾
Signal Co	24¼	24½
Singer	16	16
Sony	18½	17¾
Sth Cal Edison	30¾	30¼
Southern Pacific	42¾	41¾
Southern Rly	94½	94¾
Sperry Corp	35¾	35
Std Oil Califnia	44¾	44¾
Std Oil Indiana	54¾	53¾
Std Oil Ohio	44¾	44¾
Sterling Drug	23¾	22¾
Stevens J. P.	15¾	14¾
Sunbeam Corp	28¾	28¾
Sun Comp	45¾	44¾
Teledyne	134¼	138¾
Tenneco	34	33¾
Texaco	34¼	34¼
Texas East Corp	54	53¾
Texas Inst	82¾	80¾
Texas Utilities	20½	20¾
Textron	26¾	27¾
TWA	16¾	16½
Travelers Corp	47¼	47¾
TRW Inc	52½	52¾
UAL Inc	18	18¼
Union Carbide	51¼	50¾
Union Oil Calif	41¼	40¾
Un Pacific Corp	50¾	50¾
Uniroyal	7½	7½
United Brands	10	10
US Industries	9¼	9¼
US Steel	29¾	29¾
Utd Technol	43¾	43
Wachovia	27½	27¼
Warner Lambert	23¾	23¾
Wells Fargo	28½	28¾
Westnghse Elec	26¾	26¼
Weyerhaeuser	30¾	29¾
Whirlpool	25¾	25½
Woolworth	19¼	18¾
Xerox Corp	39¾	39¾
Zenith	11¾	11¼

Canadian Prices

	Dec 4	Dec 3
Abitibi	21½	21¼
Alcan Alumin	27¾	27¾
Algoma Steel	42¾	42¾
Bell Telephone	18¾	19¾
Cominco	52¾	52½
Cons Bathurst	19¾	19¾
Gulf Oil	20¾	21
Hawker/Sid Can	11¾	11¾
Hudson Bay Min	24¾	24¾
Hudson Bay Oil	49¾	49¾
Imasco	40¾	40¾
Imperial Oil	28	27¾
Int Pipe	15¼	15¾
Mass.-Fergsn	1¾	1¾
Royal Trust	14½	14½
Seagram	68½	68¾
Steel Co	31	30¾
Thomson N 'A'	23	23
Walker Hiram	34½	34¾
WCT	13¾	13¾

• Ex div. a Asked. c Ex distribution. h Bid. k Market closed. n New issue. p Stock split. t Traded. y Unquoted.

Abele gains 46 pc of Illingworth Morris

An Isle of Man-based company, Abele, of which London property dealer Mr Alan Lewis is a director, has *officially taken over the 46* per cent shareholding in textile company Illingworth Morris formerly held by Illingworth Morris director Mrs Pamela Mason.

The company confirmed yesterday that under a contract dated last October, Mr Lewis had agreed to acquire 1.9m ordinary shares, giving 19.23 per cent of the voting equity and more than 4m of the non-voting ordinary shares, worth 13.78 per cent. This shareholding gives Abele an overall holding of 46 per cent and now forces the company to bid for full control of Illingworth Morris.

Newman Industries

On turnover down from £40.4m to £37.6m, Newman Industries suffered a pretax loss of £1.31m in the first half, compared with a pretax profit of £293,000 in the first half of 1980. Sales in money terms have been generally maintained and Avdel and the Engineering Products division continued to trade profitably. Adverse currency movements badly affected the ceramics division's profits.

Evered cuts loss

Evered and Co Holdings, an engineering group, managed to reduce its pretax loss to £202,000 in the first half, compared with *£245,000* in the first half of 1980 and £401,000 in the second half of that year.

Once again, there is no ordinary payment and the board is passing the preference dividends payable on June 30 and December 31.

E J Riley sale

E. J. Riley has sold two subsidiary companies, Andor Arts and Taurus Tableware. These companies operate four retail chinaware and gift shops in the South of England. The consideration for the sale is £150,000 and Riley retains a leasehold property which will be sold separately. The net assets of the two companies at July 31 were £144,352.

Wagon Industrial

On turnover up from £21.3m *to £24.6m for the* half-year to September 30, Wagon Industrial Holdings' pretax profits slumped from £1.53m to £881,000. However, with the company's cash position remaining satisfactory and orders the strongest for over a year, the board expects the second-half's results to show an improvement. The interim dividend of the engineering group is being held at 2.85p gross share.

Gordon & Gotch

Pretax profits of Gordon and Gotch Holdings, at *£591,000* for the half-year to September 30, are £87,000 up on the similar half of 1980, following a return to profitability by the traditional side of the business and an improved result from associate Hachette Gotch. Mr A Peart Smith, the chairman, looks forward to a second half not too dissimilar from these figures and so the interim payment is held at 4.28p gross.

BICC—Rotunda

Talks are on which may lead to BICC selling its offshoot, Rotunda, to a consortium of the present Rotunda management. Rotunda, based near Manchester, makes self-adhesive tapes for the industrial and consumer markets and had sales of £11m in 1980. Meanwhile, Rotunda's paper tape business, at Chorley, near Preston, is to be separately acquired as a going concern by a Canadian company.

Commodities

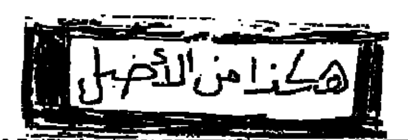
COPPER was steadier.—Afternoon.—Higher grade cash, £887-88.50; three months, £904.50-905.00. Sales, 6,025 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £882-84; three months, £900-900.50. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Higher grade cash, £879-80; three months, £896.50-97.00. Settlement, £880. Sales, 9,250 tonnes. Cash standard cathodes, £873-74; three months, £891.50-92.00. Settlement, £874. Sales, 200 tonnes.
TIN was steady.—Afternoon.—Standard cash, £8,360-70 a tonne; three months, £8,120-30. Sales, 700 tonnes. High grade cash, £8,360-70; three months, £8,120-30. Sales, nil tonnes. Morning.—Standard cash, £8,350-60; three months, £8,120-30. Settlement, £8,360. Sales, 490 tonnes. High grade, cash, £8,355-60; three months, £8,120-30. Settlement, £8,360. Sales, nil tonnes. Singapore tin ex-works, SM33.46 a picul.
LEAD was irregular.—Afternoon.—Cash, £343.50-44.50 per tonne; three months, £355.50-45.50. Sales, 2,725 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £341.50-42.00; three months, £351.50-52.00. Settlement, £342. Sales, 4,750 tonnes.
ZINC was steady.—Afternoon.—Cash, £427-28.50 per tonne; three months, £433-33.50. Sales, 2,000 tonnes. Morning.—Cash, £427-28; three months, £433-33.50. Settlement, £428. Sales, 5,875 tonnes.
PLATINUM was at £215.50 ($419.50) a troy ounce.
SILVER was very firm.—Bullion market (fixing levels).—Spot 448.50p per troy ounce (United States cents equivalent, 875c); three months 463.20p (897.40c); six months, 477.50p (928.10c); one year 513p (972.40c). London Metal Exchange.—Afternoon.—Cash 457.5-58.0p; three months 472-73.5p. Sales, 52 lots of 10,000 troy ounces each. *Morning.*—Cash, 448-49p; *three* months, 463-63.2p. Settlement, 449p. Sales, 84 lots.
ALUMINIUM was firm.—Afternoon.—Cash, £590-91 per tonne; three months £611-11.50. Sales, 5,025 tonnes. Morning.—Cash £585.50-86.00; three months £604.50-605.00. Settlement, £586. Sales, 6,025 tonnes.
NICKEL was steadier but quiet.—Afternoon.—Cash £2798-2805 per tonne; three months £2795-2800. Sales, 102 tonnes. Morning.—Cash £2,760-70; three months £2,769-70. Settlement, £2,770. Sales, 186 tonnes.
RUBBER (pence per kilo).—Jan, 52.50-53.00; Feb, 50.60-52.70; Jan-March, 52.60-52.70; April-June, 55.90-56.00; July-Sept, 59-39.10; Oct-Dec, 62.20-62.30; Jan-March, 65.40-65.50; April-June, 68.30-68.40; July-Sept, 71.30-71.50. Sales: One at five tonnes; 163 at 15 tonnes.
RUBBER PHYSICALS.—Spot 51.50-52.50. Cifs: Jan, 52.50-53.00; Feb, 52.75-53.25.
COFFEE.—ROBUSTAS (£ per tonne): Jan, 1.086-1.087; March, 1.068-1.069; May, 1.062-1.063; July, 1.060-1.062; Sept, 1.061-1.062; Nov, 1.052-1.050; Jan, 1.058-1.060. Sales: 2,713 lots including 279 options.
COCOA (£ per metric ton).—Dec, 1.159-1.160; March, 1.180-1.131; May, 1.159-1.160; July, 1.166-1.167; Sept, 1.174-1.175; Dec, 1.189-1.191; March, 1.190-1.200. Sales: 3,907 lots including one option. ICCO prices daily (Dec 3) 97.80c; indicator price (Dec 4), 5-day average 94.91c. (US cents per lb).
SUGAR.—The London daily price of "raws" was £4 lower at £155; the "white" price was £3 lower at £165. Futures (£ per tonne): Jan, 163-165.70; March, 167.60-167.80; May, 170-170.10; Aug, 172.45-172.75; Oct, 177.25-177.50; Jan, 176.50-178.00; March, 182-184. Sales: 5,039. ISA prices (Dec 3), daily 13.43c: 15-day average 12.11c.
SOYABEAN MEAL (£ per tonne).—Dec, 129.50-130.50; Feb, 130.80-131.40; April, 133.70-133.80; June, 134-135; Aug, 134.50-137.00; Oct, 134.50-138.00; Dec, 135-139.50. Sales: 78 lots.
WOOL.—NZ Crossbreds No 2 contract (cents per kilo): Dec, 365-382; Jan, 368-375; March, 380-385; May, 389-390; Aug, 405-406; Oct, 407-409; Dec, 412-414; Jan, 414-417; March, 424-427; May, 430-435. Sales: 99 lots.
GRAIN (The Baltic).—WHEAT.—Canadian western red spring unquoted. US dark northern spring No 2, 14 per cent: Dec, £109.50; Jan, £115 trans-shipment east coast. US hard winter 13½ per cent unquoted. EEC unquoted. English feed fob: Dec, £110.23; Jan, £111.75; Jan-March, £114 east coast.
MAIZE.—French: first half Dec, £139.50; second half Dec, £129.50; Jan, £131 trans-shipment east coast quoted. South Africa white/yellow: Dec, £85.
BARLEY.—English feed fob: Dec, £105.50 east coast Scotland; Jan, £108.50 east coast; Jan-March, £110.50 east coast Scotland. All cif UK unless stated.
London Grain Futures Market (Gafta) EEC origin.—BARLEY: Jan, £104.05; March, £107.10; May, £109.95; Sept, £101.05; Nov, £104.90. Sales: 91 lots.
WHEAT: Jan, £108.40; March, £111.45; May, £114.50; July, £117.30; Sept, £105.90; Nov, £109.40. Sales: 125 lots.
MEAT COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on Dec 4: GB cattle 98.88p per KG LW (+3.39): UK sheep 188.80p per KG est DCW (+12.78): GB pigs 79.19p per KG LW (+0.27). England and Wales: Cattle nos up 20.6 per cent, ave price 98.36p (+3.45); Sheep nos down 11.7 per cent, ave price 188.65p (+13.19); Pig nos up 9.3 per cent, ave price 79.19p (+0.27). Scotland: Cattle nos down 12.0 per cent, ave price 100.01p (+5.61); Sheep nos up 11.3 per cent, ave price 190.03p (+11.78).
INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM EXCHANGE ($ US per tonne).—Dec, 321.00-21.25; Jan, 321.25-21.50; Feb, 321.25-21.60; March, 320.50-20.75; April, 318.00-19.00; May, 318.00-18.25; June, 317.50-18.25; July, 317.00-21.00; Aug, 317.00-25.00. Sales: 1,121 lots of 100 tonnes each.
POTATOES (Gafta).—Feb, £89.50; April, £101.90; Nov, £67.90. Sales: 145 lots of 40 tonnes each.

Bank of Scotland

The Bank of Scotland's Dutch subsidiary, Scotland International Finance, is issuing United States $100m (£51m) of floating rate notes maturing in 1982. These notes are guaranteed by the Bank of Scotland. The issue has been underwritten by a managing group of international financial institutions led by the Bank of Scotland, Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs.

BPC—Carlisle Web

The price that BPC paid for the acquisition of Carlisle Web Offset was £1.67m.





Stock Exchange Prices

Strong end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Dec 22. § Contango Day, Dec 23. Settlement Day, Jan 4

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

MISCELLANEOUS

High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	38	..	9.1	24.0	..
34½	28½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£31	..	500	16.1	..
33	17	Gt Nthn Tele	£33	..	150	4.5	12.4
353	150	Imp Cont Gas	186	..	11.4	6.1	11.8
185	93	Milford Docks	115	..	0.7	0.6	..
193	88	Nesco Inv	130	..	10.0	7.7	..
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£31	..	500	16.1	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax-free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Acsis Jewellery 10p Ord (70a)	72
Asprey 25p Ord (a)	825+25
Brooke Bond Liebig 8¾% Db 87-92	£63
Cable and Wireless 50p Ord (168)	200+14
E. Worcester Wtr 10½% Rd Pf 1986 (†)	£103
Equipu 10p Ord	88
Exchequer 14% 1986 (g)	£30¾+½
Exco International 10p Ord (140)	173
Feedback Group 10p Ord (90a)	104
Greenwich Cable 25p Ord (50a)	41-1
Humberside Electronic Controls 10p Ord (10½a)	18
Johnstone's Paints 10p Ord (63a)	70
Moray Firth Exp	100
Nimslo Int $0.20 Ord (34.25a)	133+5
Saxon Oil 50p Ord (12½p paid)	75
Sheldon Jones 25p Ord (67a)	70
Television South 10p Ord NV (ak)	32-1
Do 14/20% 1968-88 Ln (ak)	£59
Tendering H'dred Wtr 10¾% Rd Pf '86 (£100)	£103
V W 25p Ord (62a)	61

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
BP (275 partly paid)	Dec 18	328f+2
Northern Foods (128+)	Jan 15	142f+7
Raglan Prop Pat (7½t)		½ prem
Strong and Fisher (50a)		½ prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a unlisted securities market. b £30 paid. f fully paid. g £40 paid. h £50 paid. i £80 paid. l £25 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at 30 per unit.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) December 4	Market rates (close) December 4	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.9400-9560	$1.9410-9430	0.43-0.33c prem	1.05-0.95c prem
Montreal	$2.2950-3030	$2.2965-2985	0.35-0.45c disc	0.55-1.05c disc
Amsterdam	4.71½-79½fl	4.72½-73½fl	1½-1c prem	4-3½c prem
Brussels	73.40-74.00f	73.45-65f	11-21c disc	54-64c disc
Copenhagen	13.94-14.02k	13.95½-96½k	10-100ore disc	25-180ore disc
Dublin	1.2155-2240p	1.2180-2200p	34-46p disc	105-130p disc
Frankfurt	4.31½-34½m	4.32-33m	1½-1¼pf prem	4½-4¼pf prem
Lisbon	124.20-125.70e	124.40-70e	35-195c disc	75-415c disc
Madrid	184.70-187.90p	184.90-185.10p	10-35c disc	45-85c disc
Milan	2313-28lr	2314-18lr	15-18lr disc	42½-46½lr disc
Oslo	11.05-14k	11.06½-07½k	1155-1265ore disc	840-950ore disc
Paris	10.88-95f	10.89½-90½f	1½-3½c disc	5½-6½c disc
Stockholm	10.58-66k	10.59½-60½k	180-110ore prem	515-450ore prem
Tokyo	419-23y	420-21y	300-265y prem	830-790y prem
Vienna	30.20-50sch	30.25-30sch	17-12gro prem	41-32gro prem
Zurich	3.45½-49½f	3.46½-47½f	1½-1¼c prem	4½-3½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was up 0.5 at 91.3.

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14½%
Discount Mkt Loans%
Weekend: High 14½ Low 6
Week Fixed: 14½-14¾

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	14¹⁄₁₆	2 months	14¹⁄₁₆
3 months	13⅞	3 months	13¾

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	14¾-14⅝	1 month	15¼
2 months	14⅜-14⁵⁄₁₆	2 months	14⅞
3 months	14²³⁄₃₂	3 months	14¾
6 months	13⁷⁄₁₆-13³⁄₁₆	6 months	14⁹⁄₁₆

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15¼-14⅞	7 months	14½-14
2 months	15-14¾	8 months	14½-14
3 months	14⅞-14¾	9 months	14⅝-14½
4 months	14⅝-14¼	10 months	14⅝-14½
5 months	14⅝-14¼	11 months	14⅝-14½
6 months	14½-14	12 months	14⅝-14½

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14²³⁄₃₂-14²¹⁄₃₂	6 months	14⅜-14¼
3 months	14¹⁵⁄₁₆-14¹¹⁄₁₆	12 months	14⅜-14¼

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14½-14¾	3 months	14¾
7 days	14½-14¾	6 months	14⅝
1 month	14¾	1 year	14⅝

Interbank Market (%)

Weekend: Open 15 Close 12

1 week	15	6 months	14⅝
1 month	14¾	9 months	14⁹⁄₁₆
3 months	14⅞	12 months	14½

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 15¼ 6 months 15⅛

Finance House Base Rate 15%

Treasury Bill Tender

Applications	£342m	allotted	£100m
Bids at	£96.56	received	69%
Last week	£96.54	received	100%
Average rate	£13.7588	Last week	£13.7544
Next week	£100m	replace	£100m

Other Markets

Australia	1.6965-1.7115
Bahrain	0.7348-0.7378
Finland	8.3978-8.4578
Greece	108.55-110.55
Hongkong	10.8895-10.9295
Iran	n.a.
Kuwait	0.5430-0.5480
Malaysia	4.3895-4.3995
Mexico	49.80-51.30
New Zealand	2.3210-2.3410
Saudi Arabia	6.6840-6.6950
Singapore	3.9865-4.0165
South Africa	1.8835-1.8885

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.5970-1.6000
† Canada	1.1778-1.1788
Netherlands	2.4300-2.4350
Belgium	37.84-37.89
Denmark	7.1680-7.1700
West Germany	2.2235-2.2250
Portugal	64.00-64.25
Spain	95.45-95.55
Italy	1193-1194
Norway	5.6950-5.7050
France	5.6125-5.6175
Sweden	5.4490-5.4530
Japan	215.25-216.45
Austria	15.55-15.58
Switzerland	1.7855-1.7875

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8458-0.8455

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 11¾-12¾; seven days, 11¾-12¹¹⁄₁₆; one month, 12-12⅛; three months, 12⁵⁄₁₆-12³⁄₁₆; six months, 12⅞-12¾.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $420.50 (an ounce); pm, $426.00 close, $426.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $438-440 (£225-226).
Sovereigns (new): $103.50-104.50 (£53.25-53.75).

Rugby Union

Welsh attack must find a way from under Australian blanket

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Australia, in their quest for the grand slam, attempt the second leg at the National Stadium, Cardiff, today against a side which, in theory at least, should be capable of giving them a thoroughly difficult afternoon. Wales ought to have the set piece strength, which will enable their half backs, Terry Holmes and Gareth Davies, to put the ball behind their opponents with precision and regularity.

In that event we may find out just how good the Australians are at resisting insistent pressure at close quarters. They know all about the threat posed by Holmes, a host by himself; after missing the whole of the last championship, Holmes transformed the national side when returning to it, along with Gareth Davies, today's captain, for the last big game of their centenary season.

There was some concern in the Wallaby camp last evening, Greg Cornelsen and Mark Loane being afflicted by chest colds but both aiming to get to the post. There was nothing wrong with the defence close in against Ireland, when the loose trio, Steven Poidevin included, enjoyed a red-letter day. Nor did defence lapse elsewhere; Ireland could not score a try, an experience shared by eight other sides who have played the Wallabies so far.

Since Mark Bailey got London's second try against them early last month—the one occasion on the tour when a fast, blanket-like cover has been outflanked—only Munster have crossed their line, and that was due to untidy Australian possession at a lineout. It has not escaped rueful notice in the principality that Bridgend, Wales B, Pontypool, Swansea, and Pontypridd have all failed to get a try.

The Australians will have a healthy respect for the opposing pack and half backs but should not feel unduly daunted by a Welsh back division which retains only two players, Gwyn Evans and Clive Rees, who appeared in their last championship match, in Paris.

The enforced absence of David Richards robs the midfield of finesse, and the touring side may be keen to discover how effective the Welsh defence is in that area against the fast and powerful intrusions of Roger Gould from full back. Given decent conditions, it may pay the Australians with their speed and fitness overall to spread things a little wider than usual on the big occasion here.

Wales are protecting a remarkable home record in Cardiff that has been inviolate, since France succeeded there in 1968, against all comers except New Zealand, who have won there three times. This is the hurdle above all others that Australia want to overcome, and there can be no doubt that if they do, they will go to Murrayfield and Twickenham with morale and confidence boosted high.

What is more, they are sustained by the memories of two victories over Wales, in Brisbane and Sydney, in an abrasive series in 1978. It is devoutly to be wished that today's confrontation, in which there will be no place for faint hearts, produces an impeccable advertisement for the game.

Welsh ambition will be to establish a tight hold on the scrummages not just at the outset, as Ireland did, but to retain it throughout the match. Australia's will be to recapture, with exactly the same forwards, the total commitment and form which destroyed the Pontypool pack and to last the course as effectively as they did in Dublin. The struggle between Tony D'Arcy and Graham Price at prop will be interesting in a battle of the front rows which would have a crucial bearing on events elsewhere.

It may be realistic to expect an even balance at ruck and maul, but an advantage for Wales at the lineout.

The selection of Mitchell Cox, rather than Mick Martin, on Australia's right wing in place of the injured Michael O'Connor, suggests that the rapier has been preferred to the bludgeon.

During the Australian training yesterday, I am reliably informed, the tourists practised three-man scrums and tapped penalties using Loane as the battering ram, something in the manner, perhaps, of Nigel Pomphrey and his club, Bristol. Their coach, Bob Templeton, said he hoped he had something up his sleeve for the Welsh: We sall see.

Today's teams at Cardiff

Wales		Position	Australia	
G. Evans (Maesteg)	15	Full back	R. G. Gould (Brisbane)	15
R. Ackerman (Newport)	14	Right wing	M. H. Cox (Sydney)	14
P. C. T. Daniels (Cardiff)	13	Right centre	A. G. Slack (Brisbane)	13
A. J. Donovan (Swansea)	12	Left centre	M. J. Hawker (Sydney)	12
C. F. W. Rees (London Welsh)	11	Left wing	B. J. Moon (Brisbane)	11
W. G. Davies* (Cardiff)	10	Stand-off	P. E. McLean (Brisbane)	10
T. D. Holmes (Cardiff)	9	Scrum half	J. N. B. Hipwell (NSW Country)	9
I. Stephens (Bridgend)	1	Prop	A. M. D'Arcy (Brisbane)	1
A. J. Phillips (Cardiff)	2	Hooker	C. M. Carberry (Brisbane)	2
G. Price (Pontypool)	3	Prop	D. J. Curran (Sydney and Newcastle)	3
M. Davies (Swansea)	6	Flanker	G. Cornelsen (NSW Country)	6
R. Moriarty (Swansea)	4	Lock	A. A. Shaw* (Brisbane)	4
G. A. D. Wheel (Swansea)	5	Lock	P. W. McLean (Brisbane)	5
G. P. Williams (Bridgend)	7	Flanker	S. P. Poidevin (Sydney)	7
J. Squire (Pontypool)	8	No. 8	M. E. Loane (Brisbane)	8

* Captain

Referee: J R West (Ireland)

REPLACEMENTS: M A Wyatt (Swansea), 16: G P Pearce (Bridgend), 17: G Williams (Bridgend), 18: P Knight (Aberavon), 19: M Richards (Neath), 20: A J Martin (Aberavon), 21.

REPLACEMENTS: L R Walker (Sydney), 16: S A Williams (Sydney), 17: J E C Meadows (Melbourne), 18: P A Cox (Sydney), 19: M C Martin (Sydney), 20: M G Ella (Sydney), 21.



Now here's what we do . . . the Welsh coach, John Lloyd, instructs Holmes (left) and Squire during training.

Wasps try wing from NZ

By David Hands

The growing band of New Zealanders playing first-class rugby in London is increased by one today with the inclusion of Bret Davies on the wing for Wasps against Rosslyn Park in a merit table match at Sudbury. Davies, aged 25, played for the Waikato XV which won the Ranfurly Shield last season and joins two of his countrymen, Mark Taylor and Mike Leggett, in the side.

Wasps also welcome back the England B scrum half, Nigel Melville, who has recovered from a leg injury. The Sudbury club have a double commitment over the weekend, since they face the touring Australian side, Eastwood, tomorrow.

Bedford, who beat Aberavon at Port Talbot last month, would enjoy a Welsh "double" if they win their evening game with Neath at Goldington Road. They have a new full back, Andy Key, who was "Dusty" Hare's deputy at Leicester, but he makes his first appearance in the club's colours in the second XV. Doug Mackay, one of four brothers playing in Bedford sides this season, is at full back against Neath but the flanker, Andy Whitehouse, is still kept out by injury.

Leicester, who entertain Waterloo, have dropped their scrum half, Steve Kenney, and brought in Nick Youngs for his second game. In the back row Angus Collington makes a return to the senior side.

Alastair Mcharg is recalled to the London Scottish side to play at Bath as a reward for his performance for the second XV last week. Mcharg, who had missed two matches because of business reasons, could not regain his place at lock against Oxford University and promptly scored two tries for the reserves.

Cricket

Hurricane Willis hits South Zone

From Richard Streeton
Hyderabad, Dec 4

Any doubts that Bob Willis might not be able to summon his fiercest pace in Indian conditions were resolved today when he found his best form of the tour so far against South Zone here. Willis bowled as fast as at any time last year against Australia and took three important wickets. South Zone were 247 for nine at the close after a mixed day for England.

At one point it looked as if South Zone would be dismissed for under 200, but the other English bowlers lacked Willis's accuracy. Lever could find little proper line and emerged with figures that will haunt him for days. Allott, having his first match bowling for nearly three weeks, was straight but posed few problems on a hard, true wicket, and even Emburey failed to show some of his usual control.

Willis was magnificent. At the age of 32 and with his unfortunate record of injuries, there were always bound to be question marks about him on this tour. He has been plagued by stomach upsets and minor strains since the tour started but now for the first time looked a positive menace as he extracted lift and movement. Willis nearly did not play in this game but decided to gamble on finding his best form in the middle rather than the nets.

South Zone's late recovery was led by Narasimha Rao who, after 170 minutes of brave defiance, completed his half century just before the end. He attempted little that was unsafe but by sensible strokeplay gathered runs steadily on both sides of the wicket. Shivlal Yadav was his first helpmate and pulled and hooked anything short by Lever and Allott. Meher Baba was also willing to chance his arm and England's attack with Willis resting was disappointing. Emburey bowled both men finally.

One blemish in England's cricket was their over-rate. On a day of burning sunshine, tempered occasionally by a dry wind, they managed only 25 overs in each of the two-hour playing periods up to tea. Emburey by then had bowled four overs to provide the only respite from seam bowling. In this sense it was the slow motion cricket that the purists feared when the touring party was first announced.

An ear complaint deprived Viswanath of an opportunity to find some form before the second Test, but his withdrawal enabled Sivaramakrishnan to come into the side and resume his regular first wicket partnership with Srikkanth that is so profitable for Tamil Nadu (formerly Madras) in the Ranji Trophy.

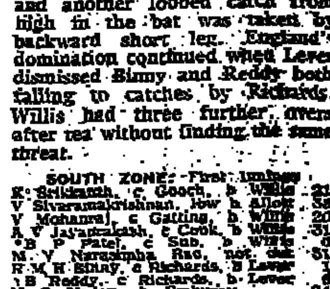
Both Willis and Lever were freely pulled and driven at the start and the total was already 49 when Srikkanth was out in the ninth over to a good tumbling catch by Gooch at second slip. Srikkanth once again trusted to his eye and reflexes and his merits are unusual ones for an Indian opener.

South Zone were 105 for two at lunch but only a further 64 runs came by tea and by then seven wickets were down. The brisk start was briefly maintained by Jayaprakash after Siva was dismissed by a ball from Allott that kept low, the only one to "misbehave" throughout.

Jayaprakash arrived in a spectacular old fashioned cap with colourful chocolate and orange hoops and his backlift flourish and wristy driving were further reminders of an Edwardian amateur. Jayaprakash had chipped seven fours in his 31 before he was found out by Willis. His spell after lunch read 6—4—5—3.

Mohanraj was Willis's first afternoon victim. He had lingered 100 minutes for 20 before he lifted a catch off the splice that gully accepted. Patel was next in and lasted only nine balls. A hesitant stroke in front of his face yielded a catch to first slip.

Jayaprakash was similarly apprehensive in Willis's next over and another lobbed catch from high in the bat was taken by backward short leg. England's domination continued when Lever dismissed Binny and Reddy both falling to catches by Richards. Willis had three further overs after tea without finding the same threat.



SOUTH ZONE: First innings

K Srikkanth, c Gooch, b Willis	31
V Sivaramakrishnan, lbw b Allott	35
Y Mohanraj, c Gatting, b Willis	20
R V Jayaprakash, c Cook, b Willis	31
B P Patel, c Sub, b Willis	0
M V Narasimha Rao, not out	51
R M H Binny, c Richards, b Lever	1
B Reddy, c Richards, b Lever	6
N S Yadav, b Emburey	24
D Meher Baba, b Emburey	[illegible]
K Bharath Kumar, not out	[illegible]
Extras (l-b 8, n-b 9)	17
Total (9 wkts)	247

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—49, 2—77, 3—113, 4—119, 5—124, 6—134, 7—140, 8—188, 9—236.

BOWLING (to date): Willis 17—6—35—4; Lever 19—2—65—2; Gooch 5—0—26—0; Allott 16—5—18—1; Emburey 15—5—38—2.

ENGLAND: G Boycott, G A Gooch, K W R Fletcher, D I Gower, G Cook, M W Gatting, J E Emburey, C J Richards, P J W Allott, J K Lever, R G D Willis.

Umpires: D N Dotiwala and M Ghouse.

Fielding is key to success

Adelaide, Dec 4.—Four injured players have been named among the 13 from which the West Indian team will be chosen to play Pakistan in a World Series cup match tomorrow. They are the captain, Clive Lloyd, who has a groin injury, Vivian Richards (bruised finger), Michael Holding (toe) and Gordon Greenidge (thigh). Much will depend on how the casualties fare in practice today, but no decision on the side will be taken until the morning.

Pakistan have no such injury worries, but their side is also not expected to be announced until shortly before the start. Mohsin Khan is likely to make his first appearance in the competition. The first choice wicket-keeper Wasim Bari could lose his place to Ashraf Ali, a more capable batsman. Despite heavy defeats by Australia in the first two Tests of their three-match series, the Pakistanis go into tomorrow's match and Sunday's cup match against Australia in confident mood.

The assistant team manager Shafqat Rana said: "The key to these matches is the fielding. We fielded poorly against the West Indies and lost. The West Indies fielded poorly against Australia and lost. We won't make the same mistake again." The three teams competing in the limited overs series have won one and lost one of their opening matches.

WEST INDIES (from): C Lloyd, V Richards, G Greenidge, D Haynes, F Bacchus, A Roberts, J Garner, M Marshall, L Gomes, D Murray, J Dujon, M Holding, C Croft.

PAKISTAN (probable): Mudassar Nazar, Mohsin Khan, Majid Khan, Javed Miandad, Zaheer Abbas, Wasim Raja, Imran Khan, Ejaz Faqih, Sarfraz Nawaz, Sikander Bakht, Ashraf Ali.

The Pakistanis will meet an Australian side growing daily in confidence and boosted by a timely return to form by their captain, Greg Chappell. His double century at the Gabba ground during the second Test against Pakistan could spell trouble for the visitors on what is being described as a batsman's wicket.

AUSTRALIA: B Laird, R Darling, G Chappell (Capt), A Border, K Hughes, G Wood, R Marsh, G Lawson, D Lillee, J Thomson, T Alderman, D Walters.—Reuter and AP.

Oxbridge in S Africa

Port Elizabeth, Dec 4.—A combined Oxford and Cambridge universities cricket team arrive in South Africa tomorrow for a short tour, the South African universities cricket president, Peter van der Merwe, said. The announcement of the visit had been delayed for fear of political repercussions. He said the squad was not an official side but it included next season's university captains — Derek Pringle (Cambridge) and Richard Ellis (Oxford).—Reuter.

Close invited to manage Scotland again

By Iain Mackenzie

Brian Close has again been invited to manage Scotland for next year's Benson and Hedges Cup matches in spite of the fact that they lost all eight games this summer and last. Next May they will not find the going much easier, with home matches against the county champions, Nottinghamshire, and Northamptonshire.

The Scots will travel the second time to Old Trafford to meet Lancashire, and also, for the second time, to Edgbaston where they will play Warwickshire. Preparations under Mr Close's guidance will be strict. There will be squad weekends—now becoming a common part of the Scottish scene in many sports—at Inverclyde between March 12 and 14 and April 2 and 4. In addition, two one-day practice matches will be played against Worcestershire at Worcester, on Saturday and Sunday, May 1 and 2.

The Scottish Cricket Union announced their squad yesterday. There are 16 players, most of whom played this year, but one important change is that Omar Henry (Poloc) takes over from the Australian, Ward Scarff, as the "non-qualified" player allowed by the Test and County Cricket Board.

Football

Everybody's dream is Atkinson's problem

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

It has been a predictable week so far. George Best announced yet another comeback. Tommy Docherty has been dismissed yet again. Arsenal and Liverpool figured in yet another goalless draw and Barnsley felled yet another giant in the League Cup. If today's programme follows the pattern, Swansea City will reclaim their position at the top of the first division.

The Welshmen, half of whom have come down from Merseyside, go back up to Everton supported by a recent history of alternating success and failure. It is their turn to win. The trouble is that Everton seem to be clinging to the same pendulum and the swing is in their favour as well. They will probably meet half way.

Howard Kendall, Everton's manager, decided that, after four defeats in the last five games, he should drop Lodge. He did not bother to look far for a replacement and will wear the No. 8 shirt himself for only the second time this season and for the first time at Goodison Park since February 1974. Swansea's only doubt concerns Stanley, one of four former Evertonians in the side, who has a hamstring complaint.

Ron Atkinson, Manchester United's manager, is beginning to run into the problem that is every selector's dream. He has too many options. Buchan, the club captain, will travel to Southampton but will not even be the substitute. McQueen continues at centre half after an inspired reappearance last week. Roche again deputises for the injured Bailey and Macari is included at No. 12.

To maintain their lead, United must break open a defence that has been sealed since October 31, that is for more than seven and a half hours. Lawrie McMenemy, who described the opposition as "genuine championship material" took his players off to the Spanish countryside for four days and returned to pick the same side for the fifth successive match.

Ipswich, already without five internationals, learned that they had lost another member of their party as they prepared to leave by coach for Middlesbrough. Steggles was hurt in a car crash on his way to Portman Road and suffered chest injuries, although they were not thought to be serious. D'Avray, a South African, is able to lead the attack in the absence of Thijssen, one of their two Dutchmen, who plays in the reserves.

West Ham United are similarly depleted. Neighbour is already out and he may be joined by Cross, Martin and Brooking, who has made only three appearances and his substitute is Pearson. Cross is the most serious doubt since the 1980 FA Cup final victory over today's opponents, Arsenal. It is the first time the two clubs have met since that day at Wembley 19 months ago.

Arsenal have invited Robson, an England Youth team defender who celebrated his seventeenth birthday last month, to join the senior squad. He scored twice in the FA Youth Cup against Gillingham on Thursday night and his potential is one of the reasons why Arsenal are ready to part with Young.

He will sign for Nottingham Forest, whose manager, Brian Clough, yesterday denied that he was interested in Kjeldbjerg, a Norwegian defender. "Everybody in Europe is trying to get me a centre half," he added. Fairclough will fill that publicised position against Liverpool if he recovers from a facial injury sustained in the League Cup win over Tranmere.

Manchester City are down to 13 players "and not all are 100 per cent fit", John Bond stated. Tueart, McDonald and Caton all await tests before the game with Aston Villa, who also have doubts about Gibson, Deacy and Bremner. Withe has scored in their last four matches but he knows that either way his run will have come to an end tonight. On Monday he is likely to be suspended.

Docherty taken aback by latest dismissal

Tommy Docherty, who has gone through 10 clubs, was taken aback by his latest dismissal, from the managership of Preston North End.

He said yesterday: "I was shocked when they told me at 7.15 last night that I was sacked. There had not been a cross word between myself and any member of the board since I arrived at Deepdale from Sydney Olympic."

Preston are third from bottom of the third division, but Mr Docherty, who spent ten years with the club in its first division days, explained: "I know the team's results have not been good but it takes time to rebuild and it can't be done in five months. I am a pro and I'll bounce back, but whether in this country or abroad I don't know. I am beginning to have doubts about the way soccer is going in this country."

His defiant humour had not deserted him. "When one door closes, another smashes you in the face," he said. Preston are expected to name his successor on Monday.

Petar Borota, Chelsea's Yugoslav goalkeeper, has asked for a transfer, the culmination of a month-long row with John Neal, the manager.

Borota has upset Mr Neal with his eccentric style, and was dropped soon after letting in six goals at Rotherham. The 28-year-old international, Chelsea's player of the year in 1980, said yesterday: "I feel my Latin character does not get on with the manager's."

Last night's results

Second division

Cardiff City (1) 1 Micallef — Derby Co (0) 0 — 5,513

Fourth division

Colchester (1) 2 Allinson, Noble og — Blackpool (1) 1 Bamber — 3,875

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES: Newport 17, Bristol 33; Penarth 17, Birmingham 13; Pontypool 25, Glamorgan Wanderers 10.

Hockey

CRYSTAL PALACE: Roses Indoor Tournament: Welsh Dragons 5, Roses 8; Tulse Hill 7, Monkstown 6; Slough 6, Murray International Medals (Scotland) 2; Shadows 6, Beckenham 4.

Squash rackets

Forde puts his shirt on a first-round victory

By Rex Bellamy

Britain's national championship, sponsored by Thorntons, the confectioners, began yesterday evening at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, and the first winner was an unfamiliar but impressive player who contested almost the entire match with his shirt turned inside out.

This was Robert Forde, aged 27, of Cheshire, who coaches in Manchester and has only a year of serious competition behind him. Joint 18th in the English rankings, Forde confirmed the official order of merit with a convincing 9—4, 10—8, 9—1 win over Mark Taylor, aged 19, of Bournemouth.

When Forde removed his warm-up gear it transpired that the back of his shirt was blatantly emblazoned with advertising on behalf of a company—not entirely unconnected with his surname—who contribute petrol towards his travelling expenses. He was just trying to do the decent thing by them, but he was also breaking the rules, which insist that two square inches are the maximum permitted for advertising purposes.

The tournament director had given the match referee clear instructions about this sort of thing, and when Forde was in hand at 3—1 in the first game, he was told to change his shirt or turn it inside out. He chose the second alternative, took the interruption in his stride, and gave Taylor something of a tactical lesson.

In many ways the match of the evening was that in which Bob Johnson, an English international, had two game balls in the second game and five match points in the fourth before Zain Saleh, a Lancastrian with distant Arabic associations, beat him 5—9, 10—9, 4—9, 10—9, 9—5. This was an admirable performance by both players because Johnson, aged 33, came within a point of winning and because Saleh, only 16, showed precocious maturity and discipline when those qualities were most needed.

The tournament's overall organisation is in the hands of a promotional company called Multisquash, who have devised a special form of the game, known as "Supasquash", for the benefit of television. One such tournament was filmed by Anglia Television at Welwyn Garden City in October and a second, filmed by Yorkshire Television, ended on Thursday evening at Walton Hall, near Wakefield.

The basic features of "Supasquash" are a 20-minute time limit, continuous play, and American scoring—which is to say that, whether serving or not, the winner of every rally scores a point. A buzzer sounds at 17 minutes and the race against the clock, together with the relentlessly progressive scoring, have given the game exciting new qualities as a spectacle.

All this is not to suggest that anything ever will—or should—replace the traditional tournament format and the traditional international scoring system. But any professional sport with a congested fixture list needs an occasional spice of variety, from everyone's point of view, especially if that spice helps to promote interest in the game. One-day cricket, for example, serves many useful purposes. Perhaps "Supasquash" will come to play a similar role in squash.

FIRST ROUND: R le Lievre (Guernsey) beat M Bodimeade (Berkshire) 10—9, 9—5, 9—2; G Dupre (Scotland) beat M Hornby (Lancashire) 10—8, 9—3, 9—3; P Chaplin (Essex) beat M Shaw (Hampshire), 9—1, 8—10, 9—4, 9—5; R Mosley (Yorkshire) beat B Greaves (Merseyside) 9—6, 9—6, 9—3; S Rollington (Leicestershire) beat B Beeson (Northumberland) 9—7, 9—7, 9—5; Zain Saleh (Lancashire) beat R Johnson (Surrey), 5—9, 10—9, 4—9, 10—9, 9—5; R Forde (Cheshire) beat M Taylor (Hampshire) 9—4, 10—8, 9—1; C Jones (Wales) beat T Ayling (Leicestershire) 10—8, 9—6, 0—9, 9—6; N Harvey (Essex) beat C Edwards (Shropshire) 9—8, 9—3, 9—6; T Salisbury (Wales) beat R Shay (Warwickshire) 9—6, 2—9, 9—4, 9—3; B Patterson (Hampshire) beat J Duckworth (Lancashire) 4—9, 9—3, 9—5; P Wright (Essex) beat J Swarbrick (Warwickshire) 4—9, 6—9, 9—6, 9—7, 9—1; M Green (Buckinghamshire) beat T Hall (Kent) 10—8, 3—9, 9—6, 1—9, 9—7; A Jaski (Middlesex) beat N O'Hagen (Surrey) 9—3, 9—5, 9—5.

Hockey

Midlands final will help to complete the jigsaw

By Sydney Friskin

In the qualifying rounds for the National Club championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, a few more places in the jigsaw puzzle will fall into position tomorrow. A total of 32 teams will eventually go into an open draw for the first round which starts on February 7.

The focal point of interest is the Midlands final between Nottingham and Bourneville at Goosedale Farm starting at 1.45. John Sharpe leads a strong Nottingham side with a fine blend of youth and experience, and among their younger players is Clift, the fast and skilful forward who played for the England juniors in the European championship at Barcelona in September.

Bourneville are hoping for great things from Mallett who has scored most of their goals. He gained a lot of experience while touring Australia with the England senior team, but has been dropped from the World Cup squad for Bombay to make way for Francis.

This should be a high scoring match and although both sides will go through to the National rounds, each will strive for the honour of being Midlands' champions. At Derby there is a Plate final between Derby and Northamptonshire Saints and these two teams will also go through. The fifth qualifier from the Midlands has yet to be found from a play-off involving Stone, Olton and West Warwick, Tulford and Shifnal, and Leicester.

The Eastern Division will find four of their five qualifiers from their quarter final round to be played tomorrow and it will not be surprising to see Cambridge City, St Albans Fords and Bishop's Stortford go through. The fifth qualifier from this division will be found from the four losing sides.

The progress of the Shadows in the Roses international indoor tournament at Crystal Palace will be watched with much interest. They represent the England Under-21 team who will play in the first junior European championship in Vienna next February.

In the women's county championship, Sussex, who play Buckinghamshire at Bisham Abbey, include Caroline Williams and Sarah Goodwin, Joyce Whitehead writes. They are two of the six students from Brighton Polytechnic who are in the British Polytechnics southern team to play the North on January 16 at Lilleshall.

TEAM: F Nicholls (Kingston), L Latham (Plymouth), J Beer (Brighton), E Devaney (Brighton), G Chahal (Thames), K Halliwell (Brighton), G Bradley (Brighton), J Hart (Bristol), J Evans (Leicester), C Williams (Brighton), S Goodwin (Brighton).

Ice skating

A chance for Pepperday to gain time

By John Hennessy

This week's British figure skating championships, sponsored by Multi Broadcast, offered one particular opportunity and one particular challenge. Mark Pepperday, ascending to the position once held by John Curry and Robin Cousins, has perhaps a last chance to show that he has put away childish things and decided to reach out for the maturity that seemed to be evading him.

As the new champion, he will carry the British banner in the European and world championships after the turn of the year and, with it, a personal responsibility. He went to the Europeans as second string last season and was 14th, which is not what we would expect of a British champion. Since we are not entitled to two entries at either of the international events, the burden will fall entirely on his shoulders.

His career has been maddeningly erratic for one so naturally gifted. Given the dedication of any other member of the team, he would probably have been a formidable force by now but he has found it difficult to buckle down to business and, indeed, gave up the sport altogether during the summer. He toyed with the idea of turning professional and decided only two months ago to come back and give the championships one last go.

He has talent in the genes since his sister, once a figure skater, is now a British speed skating champion. He has the opportunity. Has he the burning desire to make the most of his potential? On the answer to that question rests the possibility of Britain recovering lost ground in the one area where we were once supreme. Pepperday is 20, so for all his lost time he is still young enough to go far.

We may, too, hold out high hopes for our new pairs champions, Susan Garland and Ian Jenkins.

Our two leading women skaters have changed places, which may be no bad thing. Of the two, Debbie Cottrill, winner in 1978 and now three years later, is more in need of a boost to her confidence after a year of injury. Karen Wood, on the other hand, is a fighter who is never cast down for long.

Miss Wood still gets a place in the British team to go to the European and world championships in the new year. She was named last night along with Miss Cottrill, Pepperday and the pairs champions.

MEN: Free skating: 1, M Pepperday (Nottingham) 1.0 pts; 2, C Howarth (Richmond) 2.0; 3, P Robinson (Blackpool) 3.0; 4, K Whiting (Altrincham) 4.0; 5, J Levers (Sheffield and Nottingham) 5.0. Overall: 1, Pepperday 2.6; 2, Howarth 3.4; 3, Robinson 6.0; 4, Whiting 8.4; 5, Levers 9.6.

PAIRS: Free skating: Miss S Garland and I Jenkins (Solihull) 1.0 pts; 2, Miss C Nelson and C Nelson 2.0; 3, Miss L Cushley and N Cushley (Teesside) 3.0; 4, Miss M Hague and A Naylor (Nottingham) 4.0. Overall: 1, Miss Garland and Jenkins 1.4; 2, Miss C Nelson and Nelson 2.8; 3, Miss Cushley and Cushley 4.4; 4, Miss Hague and Naylor 5.2.

WOMEN: Free skating: 1, D Cottrill (Solihull) 1.0 pts; 2, K Wood (Deeside) 2.0 pts; 3, S Jackson (Nottingham) 3.0 pts; 4, D Rankin (Queen's) 4.0 pts; 5, S Dempsey (Richmond) 5.0 pts; 6, C Howe (Sunderland) 6.0 pts. Final: 1, D Cottrill 2.0 pts; 2, K Wood 4.4 pts; 3, D Rankin 5.4 pts; 4, S Dempsey 9.0 pts; 5, S Jackson 10.4 pts; 6, C Howe [illegible].

Rugby League

Squad distracted from more important things

By Keith Macklin

The Great Britain management team of Colin Hutton and John Whiteley will not have been pleased at the timing of the announcement of a rugby league players' association. Messrs Hutton and Whiteley, former players themselves, will have no objection to the formation of the association, but they wanted the Great Britain squad to concentrate on higher things this week.

Tomorrow at Hull, Great Britain meet France in the first of two internationals arranged between the countries in place of last season's European triangular tournament between England, France and Wales.

France, who won the European championship last season largely by virtue of an idiosyncratic performance by a French referee in the England v France game at Headingley, will be less than happy about their prospects tomorrow. This is a good all round Great Britain squad, full of pace and experience, and likely to prove too good for a French team lacking two important backs in Laumond and Allard. However, they have world-class players in Roosebrouk, a skilful loose forward, and Ratier, a centre.

This will be the 35th international between Great Britain and France, Great Britain having won 22, France 11 and two having been drawn. France last beat Great Britain at Toulouse in 1971 and should not be allowed to win tomorrow. France will get no help from the referee on this occasion. In the middle, in line with the new policy of appointing independent referees, will be Greg Hartley, the Sydney referee

Boxing

Fiery old warrior plods his way slowly back

From Ross Waby
Chicago, Dec 4

Joe Frazier wants to continue his heavyweight career in spite of his woeful showing in a draw against Floyd Cummings here last night. The former world champion only just escaped with a tied result, the two judges scoring the bout even and the referee scoring it 46—45 for Cummings, the majority decision being the ruling.

"Compared with five years ago I didn't see anything missing", said Frazier of his performance in Chicago's National Ampitheatre. But Frazier, 38 next month, could not see his thickened mid section bulging over his waistband, or his stiff legs, as those at the ringside could.

He could not see that his punches lacked authority, that his once feared left hook was a wild swing that mostly missed, that the fiery warrior had become a plodding battler. Frazier may not have seen anything missing but those who remember him in his prime certainly did.

His performance was an ungraceful, slow-motion mimicry of what he used to do in the ring. One of his moves sent a bolt of fear into his corner, that being the stutter step he took after being hit in the head.

It was a replay of the little involuntary jump he took before crashing to the canvas after being knocked senseless by George Foreman in 1973. This time it was "Jumbo" Cummings who got Frazier to dance and Cummings is not Foreman so Frazier stayed upright and merely bled from the mouth.

"Oh yes I got shook a couple of times", he admitted. "But I fought a guy as good as any of the champions of today and I proved myself. Now its back to the drawing board to prepare for a championship. I'm ready to go. I'll fight any contender. All I need is a man in front of me." That is what Frazier will get if he boxes again because he showed against Cummings he is incapable of evasion.

Cummings is but a muscular and powerful brawler lacking stamina, in spite of Frazier's assessment. He hurt Frazier in the eighth round but could not finish him off, exhausting himself in the flurry so that he had to cling to Frazier and the ropes gasping for breath.

Encouraged by his handlers and a home town crowd that did not mind seeing Frazier's reputation sullied Cummings gave forth the time honoured response to the decision. "I was robbed", he complained.

Cummins's self delusions were easier to understand than Frazier's. On my card Frazier won the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh rounds, the second and ninth were even, and Cummings won the remainder.

Pedroza defends

Panama City, Dec 4.—The Panama featherweight, Eusebio Pedroza, defends his World Boxing Association title tomorrow against a South African, Bashew Sibaca. Pedroza has a long reach

Bridgend get Williams

The Cardiff full back, Rhys Williams, who is at present suffering from a knee injury, is to join Bridgend. Williams (24) has made 29 senior appearances for the Welsh Cup holders whose first choice at full back is Paul Rees.

Golf

Mosey clings to slender lead in S Africa

Johannesburg, Dec 4. — Ian Mosey, of Britain, started the third round of the South African Open championship with a four-stroke lead but was left with a slender one-shot advantage after a workmanlike par 72 today.

Mosey remained on 13-under-par and now faces a challenge from four South Africans, Tienie Britz, Gavin Levenson, John Bland and Steve Williams, who are tied on 204. Another Briton, Chris Moody, produced the shot of the round when he holed in one on Royal Johannesburg's 212 yard 15th hole.

LEADING SCORES (South African unless stated): 203: I Mosey (GB), 65, 66, 72. 204: T Britz, 70, 67, 67; G Levenson, 68, 69, 67; J Bland, 68, 67, 69; S Williams, 64, 71, 69. 205: N Price (Zimbabwe), 66, 67, 72. 206: G Player 67, 72, 67; E Balocchi, 65, 74, 67; J Fourie, 69, 66, 71.—Reuter.

Yachting

Kriter retains overall lead

From Barry Pickthall
Auckland, Dec 5

Kriter IX, the 65ft French sloop skippered by Andre Viant, crossed the Auckland finish line shortly before 6 pm local time last night to take fourth place on handicap on this second leg of the Round the World Race. Kriter finished just 10 minutes ahead of the 80ft British yacht FCF Challenger, skippered by Leslie Williams.

The French yacht's fast passage across the Tasman Sea had made it likely that she would finish within Ceramco New Zealand's handicap time to take line honours for this leg. But her fourth place was still enough to retain an overall lead on the fleet

Basketball

Anxious Doncaster secure place in fourth final

By Nicholas Harling

Doncaster 86 Birmingham 79

John Carr Doncaster seemed to be doing their utmost to give their supporters apoplexy in their ASDA National Cup semi-final in Sheffield last night before they secured a place in their fourth successive final.

Three times Doncaster held a lead of ten points or more and three times FIAT Birmingham staged fine recoveries, on the last occasion to get within two points. Yet in the end victory went to the team that deserved to make further progress. Doncaster's opponents in the final at Leicester on January 23 will be either Solent, the first division leaders, or Leicester, the second division side, who meet in the second semi-final at the Aston Villa sports centre on Wednesday.

Birmingham's chances of appearing in their first final probably disappeared with the English Basketball Association's decision to suspend Brian Lester for one match following his sending-off last weekend at Guildford. Without their Australian guard, Birmingham lacked their usual organization. That was crucial.

Although the issue was in doubt until the final minute, Birmingham almost certainly look upon an early four-minute spell as the period in which the tie swung away from them. Basket had been traded for basket when Doncaster suddenly scored ten points without reply to lead 18—8. Birmingham made inroads into that deficit as they subsequently cut into Doncaster's interval lead of 43—30 and a second-half advantage of 75—63, but they were always thereafter in pursuit.

It was entirely appropriate that Day and Everett should share Doncaster's scoring honours. Semi-finals seem to suit Day for it was his commitment that carried Doncaster through against Sunderland at the same stage last year. Like him, Everett was a sure shot, both from open play and the free throw line. There were even occasions when Bell and Richards, who too rarely capitalized on their height, did so with effective results.

The determination of White, in between periods of apparent disinterest, had kept Birmingham in the game during the first half and it was when Branch and Stroeder responded to adversity that Doncaster's lead was whittled away in the second half. Assinder, too, verbally as wel as physically, disputed every point.

SCORERS: Doncaster: Everett 36, Day 26, Richards 14, Bell 12, Bell and Bycroft both 4. Birmingham: White 33, Assinder 20, Stroeder 16, Branch 8, Watson 2.

Table tennis extended

The Norwich Union English table tennis championships, at Crawley, have been extended by one day to accommodate an extra large entry. Twenty countries will compete, including China, Japan, South Korea, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Poland, and the event will now run from January 5 to January 9.

TEAMS: Men: D Douglas (Birmingham), J Hilton (Saarbrucken), P Day (Solihull), D Johnson (Birmingham), G Sandley (Potters Bar), K Jackson (Romford). Women: J Hammersley (Preston), K Witt (Reading), L Jarvis (Guisborough), A Gordon (Reading), J Grundy (Preston), L Ballinger (Dunstable).

Cierpinski in Fukuoka

Waldemar Cierpinski, of East Germany, twice an Olympic gold medalist, will lead a record field of 177 Japanese and foreign runners in the 16th Fukuoka International marathon tomorrow. The field includes David Chettle (England).

Skiing

Miss Epple in command in opening event

Val d'Isère, Dec 4.—Irene Epple, of West Germany, won the women's giant slalom as the new World Cup ski season began here today. She covered the two-leg event in a combined time of 2 min 30.24 sec. Miss Epple, aged 24, led after the morning run on the 50-gate 2,680-metre course and maintained her position in the second leg.

The West German, first in the giant slalom here last year, is among the favourites for the 1981-82 season, which includes the World Cup and the two-week world championships in Schladming, Austria, in January-February.

Second today was Erika Hess, of Switzerland, whose combined time was 2 min 30.91 sec. Miss Hess, aged 19, won six slalom races last season and took the final giant slalom. She is another strong favourite to win the World Cup this year. Tamara McKinney, the 19-year-old American, who won the World Cup giant slalom last season, was third with a time of 2 min 31.39 sec.

The morning run over the sun-dappled course was marked by aggressive skiing over hard snow which turned softer towards the end of the course. The run had a 390-metre drop. In the afternoon run the women raced more cautiously on a shaded course

LEADING PLACINGS: 1, I Epple (WG), 2min 30.24sec (1:13.40 + 1:16.84); 2, E Hess (Switzerland), 2:30.91; 3, T McKinney (US) 2:31.29; 4, P Pelen (France) 2:31.66; 5, M Epple (WG) 2:31.72; 6, M R Quario (Italy) 2:32.39; 72, M Longmuir (GB) 2:50.77.

MEN: Downhill practice, first leg: 1, T Buergler (Switzerland) 2:05.50; 2, P Heinzer (Switzerland) 2:06.40; 3, F Klammer (Austria) 2:05.75; 4, P Muller (Switzerland) 2:05.86; 5, J Walcher (Austria) 2:05.98; 6, D Powell (US) 2:07.31. Second leg: 1, Heinzer 2:09.14; 2, Muller 2:09.90; 3, S Podborski (Canada) 2:10.06; 4, L Stock (Austria) 2:10.75; 5, H Hoeflehner (Austria) 2:11.10; 6, K Read (Canada) 2:11.11.—Reuter.

Snooker

The powerful play of Davis saps Griffiths' early confidence

By Sydney Friskin

Steve Davis, the holder, soon built a fortress for himself in the form of a 6—1 lead in the first session of the 31-frame United Kingdom championship final, sponsored by Coral, against Terry Griffiths, of Wales, at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday.

This fortification could prove impregnable but defence was not on Davis's mind. After dropping the first frame he launched an unrelenting attack to win the next six frames comfortably. The sense in his game was his powers of perception, the sensitivity, his delicacy of touch.

Griffiths, as though determined to obliterate the memory of the 9—0 defeat by Davis in the semi-finals last year, won the first frame after a tense battle of attrition lasting 33 minutes. The decisive factor was a break of 49 by Griffiths and after he had potted the yellow, the green and brown, Davis conceded.

But that was the only concession Davis was to allow before the interval. In the second frame he was the complete master. His machinery, if that is the right word, was set in motion with a clearance break of 87 which involved the elimination of the nine reds left on the table.

The third frame was a story of consolidation by Davis, so was the fourth, which was embellished by a break of 47. A superb break of 65 assured him of the fifth frame which Griffiths conceded. He potted one of the two reds left and attempted a shot on the black which left the table

Davis kept his game flowing in the sixth frame, with breaks of 31 and 37, and once again Griffiths conceded with a red ball still on the table. At last, Griffiths found something to set him going at the start of the seventh frame but his break of 30 gave him no security.

Davis responded almost immediately with a break o 63 and after potting the yellow left Griffiths with the task of seeking a few snookers. But the best Griffiths could achieve was to extract seven points from Davis for hitting the black. Then after Davis had taken the brown he left Griffiths with no option but to pot the blue. With two balls left Griffiths was still trying to snooker, but eventually conceded the frame.

Later, Davis led 9—1.

Griffiths, who had beaten Tony Meo 9—3 in the semi-finals on Thursday night, had won nine out of 10 frames after Meo had taken a 2—0 lead. The confidence which he had found in this match was completely lost in the first seven frames against Davis yesterday.

SEMI-FINALS: T Griffiths (Llanelli) beat A Meo (Romford) 9—3 (Griffiths first): 46—75, 1—107, 65—23, 88—5, 108—29, 74—24, 60—37, 112—15, 85—19, 63—38, 75—70, 70—22.

FINAL: S Davis (Romford) leads T Griffiths (Llanelli), 6—1 (Davis first): 28—60, 102—13, 71—12, 76—24, 73—1, 69—30, 75—45.

Racing

Francome to drive on with four-in-hand

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

John Francome can continue his seemingly irrepressible march towards another championship—he has been the leading rider under National Hunt rules three times already—by enjoying yet another field day at Kempton Park this afternoon. He could easily win four of the races, on News King (1.30), Celtic Ryde (2.0), Fifty Dollars More (3.0) and King Hustler (3.30).

Celtic Ryde clearly has the hardest task in the Mecca Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle, the day's most valuable race. But he boasts that touch of class which could enable him to pass this searching test with honours. It was over today's course and distance that Celtic Ryde won his first race this season and it was also here that he beat Birds Nest, Heighlin and Freight Forwarder in the Christmas Hurdle last Boxing Day.

On each occasion he was ridden by Francome with the style and guile that has made him what he is in the jumping world today. And each time he repaid the confidence that Francome clearly had in him by producing a storming late finish.

When last seen in public, midway through November, Celtic Ryde beat Birds Nest and Starfen at Leicester. Once again it was a powerful late burst that won him the prize. Indeed on that performance he should beat Starfen again this afternoon.

It is interesting that Francome has chosen to ride Celtic Ryde instead of Donegal Prince and I can only hope that his judgment is right. Donegal Prince was a useful novice last season and an even better horse on the flat last summer.

If the handicapper is to be believed Sir Gordon, Grey Mate, Knighthood, Prince of Spain, Chain of Reasoning and Holmoor Star all face an uphill struggle. They were allotted between [illegible] in the long handicap.

Grey Mate's winning form at Cheltenham last month has received a considerable boost in the meantime, because the horses who finished second, third and fourth have all won. But his trainer, Derek Kent, does have grave reservations about the soft ground. Like so many of the jumpers who have come from New Zealand to race in this country, Grey Mate is at his best on better ground.

Arguably, both Gaye Chance and Lumen could well find two miles around Kempton a trifle too sharp. Much of their best form has been over further and they could easily be vulnerable when Francome decides that the moment is ripe to press the accelerator on Celtic Ryde half way up this relatively short straight. However, having watched The Tsarevitch finishing third to Lumen in their last race at Ascot, I am convinced that today's course and distance will suit him down to the ground.

At Ascot The Tsarevitch was clearly beaten by lack of stamina which is not all that surprising since he is by Mummy's Pet, who was a sprinter pure and simple. The Tsarevitch is trained by Nicky Henderson who is also running Mount Harvard. Whatever the outcome of his two-pronged assault on this valuable prize Henderson should at least win the December Handicap Hurdle with King Hustler, who looks just the sort to follow.

By the time he weighs out to ride King Hustler Francome should have already won the Tingle Creek Handicap Steeplechase on that much improved jumper, News King, and the Henry VIII Novices Steeplechase on Fifty Dollars More, who is still unbeaten over fences. Carved Opal, Francome's mount in the Mecca Bookmaker's Three-Year-Old Hurdle Championship had some decent form to his name on the flat [illegible].

However, it goes against the grain to oppose Royal Vulcan, who has made such an encouraging beginning to his jumping career having been a model of consistency on the flat. The way that he beat the more experienced Krug in his first hurdle race at Kempton last month had to be seen to be believed and by all accounts he was every bit as [illegible] at Leicester afterwards.

At Kempton yesterday Francome enjoyed a relatively worry-free ride on Musso who won the Haig Whisky Novices Hurdle (qualifier) comfortably. But it should be remembered that Bright Oassis was trying to give this nice young horse 5lb. In the circumstances he excelled because he was beaten only three lengths by Musso.

STATE OF GOING (official): Chepstow, soft. Newcastle, soft. Kempton, soft. Monday: Kelso, good to soft. Nottingham—Hurdles, good to soft. Chase, good.

Kempton down-and-outs: fortune puts the skids under Jeff Kear and Melerek.

Fitzgerald's Phoenix Prince to rise again

By Michael Seely

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune struck two knock-out blows at Jimmy Fitzgerald at Huntingdon last Tuesday. Fairy King appeared to have mastered the odds-on favourite, Wayward Lad, when falling at the last fence in the Peterborough Chase. And an hour earlier this controversial obstacle had also proved the downfall of Brave Fellow, who looked all set for an easy victory in the Tetworth Novice's Steeplechase.

However, Fitzgerald, the Malton trainer, bounced back to form at Ayr on Thursday when Western Man landed a gamble in the opening handicap hurdle. This afternoon, at Newcastle, Phoenix Prince can carry on the good work by landing his third victory in a row for Fitzgerald in the Panama Cigar Hurdle qualifier.

Phoenix Prince may not have accomplished much when beating Rag Dancer at Haydock. But the Irish-bred gelding could be named the winner long before Tony Charlton asked the four-year-old to go about his business on the flat. Lingdale, Jondale and Geary's Cold Rolled, as well as Strike Action, are all capable of making their presence felt, but Phoenix Prince should prove their master.

Ryeman, a winner at the same Haydock meeting, appeals as the day's best wager in the Philip Cornes Novices' qualifier. Peter Easterby's four-year-old showed the courage of a lion, when beating Thurston in the Garswood Novice's Hurdle, and his form reads superior to that of Wingetts. Also at Newcastle Show Rose is hard to oppose in the Belsay Novice's Steeplechase, and that prolific winner Cap Too will look reasonably treated in the Billy Bow Handicap Hurdle. After his 20-length defeat of Tweedale at Ayr, Pretty Sandy should be capable of defying a 4lb penalty in the Ladbroke Trophy Steeplechase.

The feature at Chepstow is the Lambert & Butler Premier Steeplechase qualifier. [illegible] Captain John, was highly impressive when [illegible] at Market Rasen and Ascot earlier in the season. He also ran a fine race when finishing fifth behind Diamond Edge in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury last Saturday. Despite a blunder at the fifth fence from home Captain John looked a danger to all until he tired at the final jumps.

The Somerset-trained No Pardon has little chance of beating Captain John; judged on form alone, but has completely dominated his opponents in his two easy victories at Devon and Exeter and Worcester. Soinfolla Boy, who finished third to Clayside in the Arkle Challenge Trophy at Cheltenham last March, is another talented young chaser. However, in his present mood, Captain John is the obvious choice.

In the absence of [illegible], Tower-Bird looks capable of winning the Phoenicia Chase for the [illegible] stable of John Webber, and it might pay to take a chance with the well-handicapped Acrow Lad against Tarbank and Hobo in the Valetta Steeplechase.

Kelp rides a rising tide

Lars Kelp, the champion jockey in Norway and Denmark, flies to New York on Tuesday to take up several riding appointments in the United States. Kelp, aged 17, who won the European apprentice championships in France and Italy this season, has ridden more than 165 winners in his short career. His stylish and effective way of riding has caught the eye of many of Europe's leading trainers.

Kelp has already been booked for plenty of rides in the United States by David Whiteley and Phil Johnson, the last named has one of the most powerful strings in New York.

Tennis

Mrs Cawley's set back

Melbourne, Dec 4.—Evonne Cawley conceded today she still has a lot of work to do to regain the form which made her such a potent force in women's tennis over the past decade. In the quarter-finals of the Australian women's open Mrs Cawley was beaten 6—4, 6—1 by Martina Navratilova.

"I know I've got a lot of work ahead of me and I am prepared to do it", Mrs Cawley, the Wimbledon champion of 1971 and 1980, said. "But I don't feel too badly about losing to Martina. I would be more unhappy losing to a lesser player."

Mrs Cawley was more fluent beating Mima Jausovec of Yugoslavia easily yesterday. The Australian, aged 30, said her plan for next year was to play the European clay court circuit as a prelude to the French open.

Miss Navratilova, meanwhile, showed no ill effects from a stretched groin muscle which troubled her yesterday. Her semi-final opponent will be Pam Shriver, who got the better of Tracy Austin 7—5, 7—6.

In the other quarter-finals, the top-seeded Chris Lloyd beat Hana Mandlikova 6—4, 7—5, in a match she felt was disappointing, and Wendy Turnbull, of Australia, overcame a leg injury to dispose of American Andrea Jaeger 6—3, 7—6.

MELBOURNE: Australian women's open, quarter-finals: Chris Lloyd (US) beat H Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) 6—4, 7—5; W Turnbull (Australia) beat A Jaeger (US) 6—3, 7—6; P Shriver (US) beat T Austin (US) 7—5, 7—6; M Navratilova (US) beat E Cawley (Australia) 6—4, 6—1. Doubles quarter-finals: S Barker (GB) and A Kiyomura (US) beat Mrs E Cawley and B Stove (Netherlands) 6—4, 6—1.—Reuter.

For the record

Table tennis

VAEXJOE (Sweden): Scandinavian International: Men, first round: C Martin (France) beat J Hilton (GB), 21—10, 21—9, 21—18. G Sandley (GB) beat A Liljegren (Sweden), 21—19, 21—11, 15—21, 21—19. Second round: Z Kalinic (Yugoslavia) beat K Jackson (GB), 21—12, 21—12, 21—11. J Jialiang (China) beat D Douglas (GB), 21—19, 21—14, 21—23, 21—15.

VAEXJOE: Scandinavian Open: Men's team, first round: Poland 3, West Germany 0; South Korea II 3, India 1; China II 3, Poland II 0; Czechoslovakia I 3, Norway 1; Czechoslovakia II 3, Italy I 2; Yugoslavia II 3, Sweden III 1; England 3, Austria 1 (English names first): D Douglas beat G Muller 21—7, 21—7; J Hilton beat E Amplatz 21—11, 21—15; Douglas and Hilton lost to Müller and Amplatz 21—16, 15—21, 19—21; Douglas beat Amplatz 22—20, 21—8; Denmark 3, Italy II 0; Sweden 3, France II 0; Yugoslavia 3, Japan 0; South Korea 3, Finland 0; West Germany II 3, England II 0; China 3, England 1 (Chinese names first): C Xizhua lost to Douglas 14—21, 16—21; J Jialiang beat Hilton 22—24, 21—15, 21—15; Chen and Jiang beat Douglas and Hilton 21—15, 21—17; Chen beat Hilton 22—20, 18—21, 21—9. Semi-finals: China 3, Poland 0; Yugoslavia 3, Sweden 0. Women's team, first round: Finland 3, West Germany 2; China II 3, Hungary I 1; Yugoslavia 3, Canada 0; Czechoslovakia 3, Sweden II 1; South Korea I 3, France II 0; China I 3, South Korea II 2, Hungary II 3, England 1 (Hungarian names first): J Magos beat J Hammersley 17—21, 21—17, 23—21; G Szabo beat L Jarvis 21—19, 17—21, 21—13; Magos and Szabo lost to Hammersley and Jarvis 17—21, 17—21; Szabo beat Hammersley 21—18, 22—24, 21—15. Sweden 3, France I: Sweden I 3, France I 0. Quarter-finals: China I 3, Hungary II 0; Sweden I 3, Finland 1; China II 3, Yugoslavia 0; Czechoslovakia I 3, South Korea I 1.

Rugby Union

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Christ, Brecon, 10, Prince Edward's, Zimbabwe, 24. Oxford Schools under-19 final: King James College, Henley, 18, Lord Williams, Thame, 11. County under-19 match: Hertfordshire 13, Berkshire 3.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Washington Bullets 114, New York Knicks 88; Phoenix Suns 137, Denver Nuggets 109; San Diego Clippers 113, Dallas Mavericks 111.

Golf

BARCELONA: Invitation tournament, leading scores (Spanish unless stated): 200: J-M Cañizares 67, 64, 69. 204: J Anglada 71, 65, 68. 205: B Gallacher (GB) 70, 67, 68. 206: M Ramos 73, 69, 64; M Garcia 69, 69, 68; M Pinero 71, 65, 70. 207: T Horton (GB) 72, 67, 68; S Ballesteros 68, 68, 71. Other British scores: 212: J Bennett 71, 70, 71. 214: D Talbot 70, 72, 72; G Manson 67, 77, 70.

LARGO (Florida): Mixed team tournament, first round leaders: 66: A Bean (US) and S Little (SA). 67: M O'Meara and A Alcott (US). 68: A Geiberger and P Sheehan (US), D Pooley and J Pyne, J Haas and H Stacy, J Cook and J Rankin, C Strange and N Lopez-Melton, J Simons and D Germain. Other scores include: 71: P Oosterhuis (GB) and S Post (US).

Cycling

ZURICH: Six-day event, fourth day, leading standings: 1, D Thurau and A Fritz (WG) 48 pts; 2, D Allan and G Wiggins (Australia) 42; 3, U Freuler and R Savary (Switzerland) 40; 4, G Frank and K Gunnar Svendsen (Denmark) 32; 5, P Sercu (Belgium) and R Pijnen (Netherlands) 37; 6, H Schütz (WG) and R Hermann (Liechtenstein) one lap behind, 60.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Bruins 6, Buffalo Sabres 3; Detroit Red Wings 4, Montreal Canadiens 3; Philadelphia Flyers 6, Calgary Flames 1.

American football

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Huston Oilers 17, Cleveland Browns 13.

Surtees defends in US

William Surtees an Englishman living in New York begins the defence of his world racket title against the British Open champion, John Prenn, at the New York Racquet Club today, Roy McKelvie writes. The second leg will be played at Queen's Club, next Saturday. Both matches consist of seven games and if the players are level, the winner will be decided on points. Surtees, aged 34, first won the title by defeating Howard Angus in 1972.

Weekend fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

First division

Birmingham v Notts County
Brighton v Sunderland
Everton v Swansea
Manchester C v Aston Villa
Middlesbrough v Ipswich
Nottingham Forest v Liverpool
Southampton v Manchester U
Stoke v Leeds
Tottenham v Coventry
West Bromwich v Wolves
West Ham v Arsenal

Second division

Barnsley v Crystal Palace
Bolton v QP Rangers
Cambridge U. v Wrexham
Chelsea v Sheffield W
Newcastle v Blackburn
Norwich v Leicester
Oldham v Grimsby
Rotherham v Orient
Shrewsbury v Luton
Watford v Charlton

Third division

Bristol R v Fulham
Burnley v Oxford U
Chester v Southend
Doncaster v Portsmouth
Exeter v Chesterfield
Gillingham v Walsall
Huddersfield v Plymouth
Millwall v Carlisle
Preston v Brentford
Reading v Lincoln
Swindon v Bristol C
Wimbledon v Newport

Fourth division

Bradford C v Peterborough
Hartlepool v Bournemouth
Hereford v Rochdale
Hull C v Crewe
Northampton v Darlington
Scunthorpe v Port Vale (3.15)
Sheffield U v Aldershot
Torquay v Bury
Tranmere v Mansfield (3.15)
Wigan v Halifax
York C v Stockport

Scottish premier division

Airdrie v Rangers
Celtic v Dundee
Dundee U. v Hibernian
Morton v Aberdeen
St Mirren v Partick Th.

Scottish first division

Ayr v Raith R.
Clydebank v Queen of South
Dunfermline v Kilmarnock
E. Stirling v Motherwell
Hamilton v Falkirk
Hearts v Queen's Park
St. Johnstone v Dumbarton

Scottish second division

Arbroath v Alloa
Berwick v Albion
East Fife v Brechin
Meadowbank v Clyde
Montrose v Cowdenbeath
Stirling A v Stenhousemuir
Stranraer v Forfar

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: A.P. Leamington v Trowbridge; Bath v Maidstone; Boston United v Stafford Rangers; Dartford v Yeovil; Enfield v Telford United; Gravesend v Frickley; Kettering v Northwich Victoria; Runcorn v Dagenham; Scarborough v Barrow; Weymouth v Barnet.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midland division: Banbury v Kidderminster; Bedford v Nuneaton; Bedworth v Bridgend; Enderby v Wellingborough; Merthyr Tydfil v Witney Town; Milton Keynes v Bromsgrove; Minehead v Gloucester; Taunton v Cambridge City. Southern: Ashford v Wealdstone; Aylesbury v Canterbury; Dunstable v Gosport; Hillingdon v Dorchester; Hounslow v Salisbury; Poole v Crawley; Thanet United v Hastings; Waterlooville v Chelmsford.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Bangor City v Morecambe; Burton Albion v Gainsborough; Buxton v South Liverpool; Gateshead v Marine; Lancaster v Goole; Macclesfield v Netherfield; Oswestry v King's Lynn; Southport v Mossley; Tamworth v Workington; Witton Albion v Grantham; Worksop v Matlock.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Aston Villa v Bolton (2.0); Blackburn v Nottingham Forest (2.0); Blackpool v Sheffield Utd (2.0); Bury v West Bromwich (3.15); Derby County v Huddersfield (2.0); Liverpool v Stoke (2.0); Manchester United v Preston (2.0); Sheffield W v Newcastle; Wolverhampton v Everton (2.0).

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Arsenal v West Ham; Bristol City v Tottenham; Ipswich v Swindon; Leicester v Southampton; Luton v Chelsea; Oxford United v Norwich; Plymouth v Reading Res.

MIDLAND LEAGUE: Appleby-Frodingham v Boston (2.15); Ashby v Brigg Town (2.15); Bridlington v Guisborough (2.15); Eastwood Town v Alfreton; Mexborough v Heanor (2.15); Spalding v Ilkeston; Sutton Town v Skegness.

IRISH LEAGUE: Bangor v Cliftonville (2.15); Coleraine v Portadown (2.15); Crusaders v Larne (2.15); Distillery v Glentoran (2.15); Glenavon v Ards (2.15); Linfield v Ballymena.

WESTERN LEAGUE (2.30): Premier division: Barnstaple v Bridgwater; Bridport v Weston Super Mare; Clandown v Bideford; Falmouth v Devizes; Keynsham v Clevedon; Liskeard v Mangotsfield; Melksham v Dawlish.

SUSSEX SENIOR CUP (2.0): First round: Three Bridges v Eastbourne. Replay (2.0): Hailsham v Ringmer.

ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Third Round: Barking v Rainham; Leytonstone and Ilford v Walthamstow Avenue.

SURREY SENIOR CUP: Fourth qualifying round: Banstead v Addlestone; Redhill v Hartley W; Whyteleafe v Ash; Dorking v Malden Vale.

HERTS SENIOR CUP (2.0): BROB Barnet v Bishop's Stortford; Baldock v Letchworth; Cheshunt v Pirton (3.0); Highfield v Hitchin; Sawbridgeworth v Berkhamsted; Ware v Hertford.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: Old Cholmeleians v Lancing O.B.; Old Wellingburians v Old Chigwellians. First division: Old Wykehamists v Old Etonians.

ARTHUR DUNN CUP: First round (2.0): Old Reptonians v Old Bradfieldians.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Bornham v Chertsey; Fleet v Edgware; Grays v Ruislip Manor; Harefield v Leyton Wingate; Haringey Boro v Chalfont St Peter; Horley v Marlow; Uxbridge v Hoddesdon; Woodford v Kingsbury.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Billericay v Slough; Boreham Wood v Sutton; Carshalton v Woking; Dulwich Hamlet v Harrow Boro; Harlow v Leatherhead; Hendon v Bromley; Staines v Croydon; Tooting and Mitcham v Wycombe Wanderers. First division: Bognor Regis v Feltham; Hampton v Chesham; Lewes v Hornchurch; Maidenhead v Epsom; Metropolitan Police v Kingstonian; Oxford City v Aveley; St Albans v Farnboro; Wembley v Clapton; Wokingham v Tilbury. Division two: Camberley v Barton Rovers; Egham v Harwich and Parkeston; Epping v Corinthian Casuals; Finchley v Hungerford; Hemel Hempstead v Worthing; Horsham v Southall; Windsor and Eton v Molesey.

ICE HOCKEY: Crowtree chiefs v Whitley Warriors (5.30).

NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE: Women division 1: Ashcombe v Hemel Hempstead (6.0); Spark v ALC (6.0); Trident Estonians v Kelly Girl Internationals (6.20); Colchester v Hillingdon.

BADMINTON: Welsh Open Championships, Cwmbran NSC. Vendepac Buckinghamshire championships, Bletchley L.C.

CANOEING: Inter-Service Slalom Championships, River Dart.

CROSS-COUNTRY: Sussex Colts, Boys, 'Inter' Men & Women's Championships, Brighton; Insurance Championships, Coulsdon; Surrey Women's League, West Ewell.

DARTS: Winmau World Masters Championships (Wembley Conference Centre, 9.30 am).

LAWN TENNIS: Scottish Covered Court Championships, Largs.

REAL TENNIS: Unigate Open Doubles Championship—Final, Queen's Club, West Kensington.

ROWING: Walton Small Boats Head.

SNOOKER: Coral UK Professional Championship, Preston Guild Hall.

Rugby Union

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales v Australia (at Cardiff, 2.30).

JOHN PLAYER CUP: Second round: Blackheath v Woodford (2.15); Hertford v Lydney (2.30); Lewes v St Ives (2.30); Matson v Thurrock (2.30); Nuneaton v Roundhay; Oxford v High Wycombe (2.30); Stamford v Liverpool (2.30); Stourbridge v Hartlepool Rovers (2.30); Walsall v Northampton.

CLUB MATCHES: Bath v London Scottish; Bedford v Neath (6.30); Birkenhead Park v Fylde; Bradford v Morley (2.30); Broughton Park v Middlesbrough (2.30); Gosforth v Gala (2.15); Leicester v Waterloo; London Welsh v Aberavon (12.30); Melrose v Kelso (2.15); Moseley v Gloucester; New Brighton v Orrell; Northern v Huddersfield (2.15); Nottingham v Loughborough Stdts; Plymouth Albion v Devonport Svcs (2.45); Pontypridd v Sale (7.0); Richmond v Coventry (2.30); Rugby v Halifax (2.30); Sheffield v Burton (2.30); Tredegar v Exeter; Vale of Lune v Harrogate (2.15); Wasps v Rosslyn Park (2.30); Wakefield v Manchester (2.30).

Hockey

TOURNAMENT: Courage International indoor, Crystal Palace NSC, 10.0.

LONDON LEAGUE: Beckenham v Cheam; Cambridge University v Blackheath; Guildford v Richmond; London University v Bromley; Maidenhead v Hawks; Mid-Surrey v Old Kingstonians; Oxford University v Southgate; Reading v St. Albans; Surbiton v Purley; Teddington v Spencer; Tulse Hill v Hampstead; Wimbledon v Dulwich.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Cambridge City; Bedfordshire Eagles v Norfolk Wanderers; Ipswich v Chelmsford; Norwich Grasshoppers v Broxbourne; Norwich Union v Bishop's Stortford; Westcliff v Pelicans; West Herts v Blueharts.

TRUMAN SOUTH LEAGUE—Regionals: Hampshire/Surrey: Bank of England v Nat West Bank; Bournemouth v Havant; Fareham v Portsmouth & Southsea; Hamble Old Boys v Chichester; Met Police v Old Tauntonians; Trojans v Camberley; Walton v Epsom. Kent/Sussex: Anchorians v East Grinstead; Bognor v Lewes; Gravesend v Canterbury; Lloyds Bank v Eastbourne; Old Williamsonians v Folkestone Opt; Sevenoaks v Marden Russets; Worthing v Tunbridge Wells. Middlesex/Berks/Bucks & Oxon: Aylesbury v Windsor; Banbury v City of Oxford; Courage v Hayes; Eastcote v Goan; Indian Gymkhana v Sunbury; Lyons v Amersham; Polytechnic v Oxford Hawks.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Buckinghamshire v Sussex, at Bisham Abbey; Cambridgeshire v Huntingdonshire, at Peterborough; Cheshire v Northumberland, at Hartford; Cornwall v Somerset, at Taunton Vale Club; Devon v Avon, at Taunton Vale Club; Dorset v Gloucestershire, at Taunton Vale Club; Durham v Westmorland, at Norton; Herefordshire v Wiltshire, at Taunton Vale Club; Lincolnshire v Norfolk, at Peterborough; Manchester League v Lancashire, at ICI, Blackley, 2.0.

Basketball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Men: Manchester v Talbot Guildford (8.0); Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead v John Carr Doncaster (8.0); Lada Birchwood v Cantabrica Kingston (8.0); Solent v Liverpool (6.30).

SECOND DIVISION: Bolton Wanderers v West Bromwich (8.0); Bradford Mythbreakers v Leicester (7.30).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL CUP: Semi-final round: Colchester Tigers v Solent (7.45).

Lacrosse

NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First Division: Heaton Mersey v Timperley; Mellor v Sheffield University; Old Hulmeians v Cheadle; Old Stopfordians v Ashton; Old Waconians v South Manchester & Wythenshawe; Stockport v Urmston.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First Division: Buckhurst Hill v Lee; Purley v Croydon; Hillcroft v Kenton. Second Division: London University v Purley "A"; Lee "A" v Buckhurst Hill "A"; Hampstead "A" v Bexleyheath; Beckenham v St Helier; Kenton "A" v Calthorpe.

Tomorrow

RUGBY UNION: TOUR MATCH: Wasps v Eastwood, NSW, Australia (2.30).

JOHN PLAYER CUP: Second round: London Irish v Saracens (2.30).

CLUB MATCHES: Newbridge v Cross Keys; Harlequins v Blackheath (2.15).

Rugby League

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Great Britain v France at Hull.

FIRST DIVISION: Barrow v York (3.30); Fulham v Castleford; Leeds v Warrington; Whitehaven v St Helens (3.30); Widnes v Bradford Northern; Wigan v Featherstone Rovers.

SECOND DIVISION: Batley v Cardiff City (2.30); Blackpool Borough v Hunslet (2.30); Bramley v Workington Town; Carlisle v Salford; Halifax v Rochdale Hornets; Keighley v Doncaster (3.15); Oldham v Huyton; Swinton v Dewsbury.

Cross country

Woking Open (Chobham Common); Camberley & District Ladies AC Races (Tomlinscote School, Frimley).

Tennis

Scottish Covered Court Championships (Largs).

Squash rackets

British Closed Championship (Abbeydale SRC, Sheffield); Commonwealth S.C., Blackpool); Dulwich Doubles (Dulwich S.C.).

Hockey

COURAGE INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOURNAMENT: Crystal Palace NSC, 10.00.

NORWICH UNION EAST CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP (2.0) Quarter-final: Bedford v Cambridge City; Fords v Bluehearts; Southend & Benfleet v St Albans; Wisbech v Bishop's Stortford.

COUNTY MATCH: Cambridgeshire U21 v Lincolnshire U21, at Wisbech.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: RAF v Leicestershire, at RAF, Cranwell.

WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: (North): Cumberland v Sheffield League (at Carlisle); Yorkshire v Lancashire Central League (at Ben Rhydding). (West, at Taunton Vale Club): Cornwall v Devon; Dorset v Wiltshire; Herefordshire v Gloucestershire.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Slough v WRAF.

CLUB MATCHES: Cheam v Southampton; Wortham v Norwich Earlham.

Badminton

Welsh Open Championships (Cwmbran NSC); Vendepac Buckinghamshire Championships (Bletchley LC); Ebbisham Veterans American Tournament (Epsom).

Basketball

MEN: First division: TCB Brighton v Liverpool (4.0). Sunderland v Crystal Palace (4.0).

SECOND DIVISION: Nottingham v Brunel Uxbridge (4.0). Camden v Milton Keynes (5.30).

WOMEN'S TROPHY: West Bromwich v Luton (2.0). John Carr Doncaster v Darlington (2.0). King's Lynn v TSB Norwich (2.30).

Kempton Park (from Sandown)

Tote Double: 2.00 and 3.00. Treble: 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30.
[Television (ITV): 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 races]

1.00 TRY-ON CHASE (novices: £3,033: 3m) (7 runners)

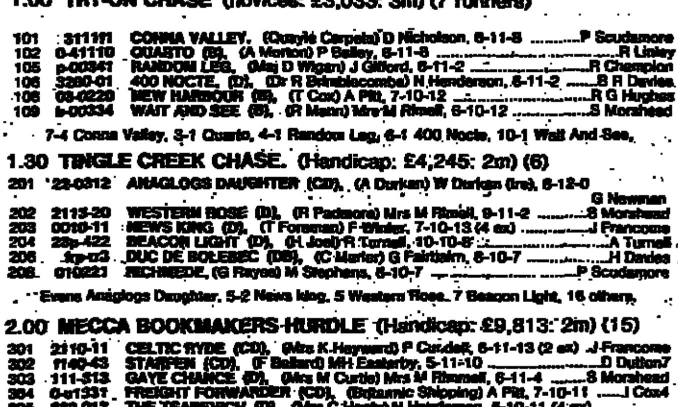
101 311111 CONNA VALLEY, (Quayle Carpets) D Nicholson, 6-11-8 .... P Scudamore
102 0-41110 QUARTO (B), (A Merton) P Bailey, 6-11-8 .... R Linley
105 p-00341 RANDOM LEG, (Maj D Wigan) J Gifford, 6-11-2 .... R Champion
106 3280-01 400 NOCTE, (D), (Dr R Brimblecombe) N Henderson, 6-11-2 .... B R Davies
108 00-0220 NEW HARBOUR (B), (T Cox) A Pitt, 7-10-12 .... R G Hughes
109 b-00334 WAIT AND SEE (B), (R Mann) Mrs M Rimell, 6-10-12 .... S Morshead

7-4 Conna Valley, 3-1 Quarto, 4-1 Random Leg, 6-1 400 Nocte, 10-1 Wait And See.

1.30 TINGLE CREEK CHASE. (Handicap: £4,245: 2m) (6)

201 22-0312 ANAGLOGS DAUGHTER (CD), (A Durkan) W Durkan (Ire), 6-12-0 .... G Newman
202 2113-20 WESTERN ROSE (D), (R Padmore) Mrs M Rimell, 9-11-2 .... S Morshead
203 0010-11 NEWS KING (D), (T Foreman) F Winter, 7-10-13 (4 ex) .... J Francome
204 28p-422 BEACON LIGHT (D), (H Joel) R Turnell, 10-10-8 .... A Turnell
206 fcp-u3 DUC DE BOLEBEC (DB), (C Marler) G Fairbairn, 8-10-7 .... H Davies
208 010223 RECHINEDE, (G Reyes) M Stephens, 6-10-7 .... P Scudamore

Evens Anaglogs Daughter, 5-2 News King, 5 Western Rose, 7 Beacon Light, 16 others.



2.00 MECCA BOOKMAKERS HURDLE (Handicap: £9,813: 2m) (15)

301 2110-11 CELTIC RYDE (CD), (Mrs K Hayward) P Cundell, 6-11-13 (2 ex) .... J Francome
302 1140-43 STARFEN (CD), (F Ballard) MH Easterby, 5-11-10 .... D Dutton 7
303 111-313 GAYE CHANCE (D), (Mrs M Curtis) Mrs M Rimmell, 6-11-4 .... S Morshead
304 0-u1331 FREIGHT FORWARDER (CD), (Britannic Shipping) A Pitt, 7-10-11 .... J Cox 4
305 332-013 THE TSAREVICH (D), (Mrs C Hanly) N Henderson, 5-10-11 (4 ex) .... B R Davies
306 001-030 HILL OF SLANE (CD), (A Turnbull) A Jarvis, 5-10-10 .... J Burke
307 12020-4 MOUNT HARVARD (D), (Furlong Bros) N Henderson, 5-10-8 .... S Smith Eccles
308 0/1114- DONEGAL PRINCE (D), (J McGonagle) P Kelleway, 5-10-6 .... G Newman
309 440-121 LUMEN (D), (P Hopkins) J Gifford, 6-10-6 (4 ex) .... G Enright
310 1110-01 GREY MATE (D), (Walls Paper) D Kent, 7-10-0 (4 ex) .... J Lovejoy 7
311 24-1134 SIR GORDON (D), (D Sanger) D Nicholson, 4-10-0 .... P Scudamore
312 40-0600 KNIGHTHOOD (CD), (H Joel) R Turnell, 6-10-0 .... Steve Knight
313 14-1322 PRINCE OF SPAIN (D), (G Brunton) P M Taylor, 6-10-0 .... S Keightley 4
314 0100/00 CHAIN OF REASONING (D), (J Joseph) S Harris, 7-10-0 .... S Jobar
315 12000-0 HOLMOOR STAR (D), (Mrs P Blackburn) Miss S Morris, 4-10-0 .... M O'Halloran

3 Gaye Chance, 6 Celtic Ryde, 7 Starfen, 8 Grey Mate, Lumen, The Tsarevitch, 9 Freight Forwarder, 12 Donegal Prince, 14 Mount Harvard, 18 Hill of Slane, 20 others.

2.30 MECCA BOOKMAKERS HURDLE CHAMPIONSHIP. (3-y-o: £4,804: 2m) (7)

401 01 BESIEGED, (A Blane) P Cundell, 11-0 .... H Davies
[illegible]

3.0 HENRY VIII CHASE. (Novices: £3,059: 2m) (5)

[illegible]

3.30 DECEMBER HURDLE (Handicap: £1,954: 2½m) (13)

[illegible]

Kempton results

[illegible]

Chepstow programme

[Television (BBC 1): 1.0, 1.30 and 2.0 races]

1.0 CORINTH HURDLE (Div I: novices: £1,231: 2m) (25 runners)

[illegible]

1.30 LAMBERT & BUTLER PREMIER CHASE (Qualifier £2,281: 2½m) (7)

[illegible]

2.0 PHOENICIA CHASE (£1,738: 2m) (8)

[illegible]

2.30 ANGLER HURDLE. (Selling handicap: £852: 2½m) (22)

[illegible]

3.00 VALETTA CHASE. (Handicap: £1,984: 3m) (13)

[illegible]
22 213p-4 LANKA, W Price, 5-10-0 .... Williams
28 12000- DRUMWYNK (CD), D Hanley, 12-10-0 .... J O'Neill 7
29 330p00 MISS RETBIUE (D), W Sheedy, 11-10-0 .... M Williams

11-4 Tarbank, 7-2 Royal Ruse, 6 Acrow Lad, 7 Hobo, 8 Princely Call, 10 Spartan Major, 14 Martinstown, 16 Gun Metal, 20-1 others.

3.30 CORINTH HURDLE. (Div II: novices: £1,250: 2m) (17)

1 103 QUILLERY (D), N Gaselee, 5-11-5 .... M Floyd
4 11332 STAND EASY, I Wardle, 4-11-4 .... M Williams
5 02022-1 ALL OUR YESTERDAYS, M Low, 4-11-1 .... Mr M Low 7
10 440-40f CASSLEY, G Merson, 8-11-0 ....
13 DUKE OF YORK, G Williams, 10-11-0 .... Mr J Price 4
17 GILDED GOLD, J Thorne, 5-11-0 .... B Hoare
21 32040-p PENVALE MEMBER, Mrs E Kennard, 6-11-0 .... Lorna Vincent
22 000/0-0 R J WALLIS, Mrs E Kennard, 8-11-0 .... S May
23 0-00 SHALTO, P Kearney, 8-11-0 .... J Raybould 7
26 f TWICKENHAM, I Balding, 5-11-0 .... B Reilly
27 WRESTLING ANGUS, D H Jones, 5-11-0 .... C Seward 4
31 0 JUST JUBILEE, M Williams, 4-10-10 .... C Mann 7
32 430-330 LUTAMIST, J Wright, 4-10-10 .... P Hobbs
35 0 RED-TORK, G Austin, 4-10-10 .... T Austin 4
36 00-3203 ROYAL CLASSIC, D Wintle, 4-10-10 .... Miss A Dare 7
37 0002 SILMIRA, Mrs R Lomax, 4-10-10 .... Doubtful
38 30 STARS PRIDE, G H Price, 4-10-10 .... R F Davies

7-4 Stand Easy, 4 Twickenham, 11-2 All Our Yesterdays, 6 Quillery, 10 Royal Classic, 12 Stars Pride, 16-1 others.

Newcastle programme

[Television (ITV): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races]

12.45 BELSAY CHASE (Novices: £1,527: 2m 120yd) (11 runners)

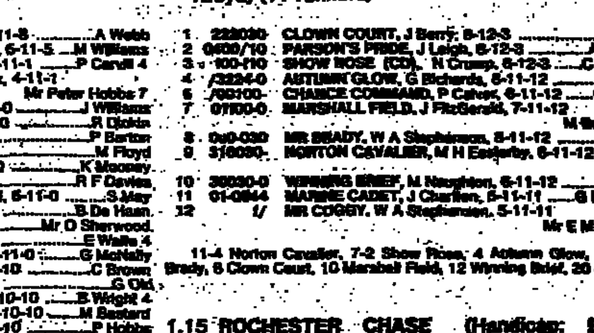
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1.15 ROCHESTER CHASE (Handicap: £2,019: 2½m) (7)

[illegible]

1.45 PHILIP CORNES HURDLE (Novices: £1,518: 2½m) (19)

[illegible]



2.15 LADBROKE TROPHY CHASE. (Handicap: £3,824: 3½m) (10)

[illegible]

2.45 PANAMA CIGAR HURDLE (4-y-o: £1,767: 2m 120yd) (9)

[illegible]

3.15 BILLY BOW HURDLE. (Handicap: £2,515: 2m 120yd) (15)

1 13081-1 NEWGATE (CD), A Scott, 8-11-12 .... A Robinson 7
2 31110-0 MY TIMMY (CD), M W Easterby, 4-11-5 .... P Tuck
3 00020-0 TONY, (CD), B Bousfield, 9-11-2 .... J O'Neill
5 000-000 ALBION PRINCE (B), V Thompson, 7-10-7 .... Mr M Thompson 4
6 121021- CAP TOO, J Blundell, 5-10-6 .... Mr D Browne 7
7 3131-40 HOME GROUND (B), M H Easterby, 4-10-6 .... Mr T Easterby
8 1111-43 MISS COUTURE (C), J W Watts, 4-10-6 .... K Williams 4
10 13404-4 ALWAYS LINPAC, W Elsey, 5-10-4 .... A Flint
11 1-01000 BALA LAD (CD), N Bycroft, 7-10-4 .... D Wilkinson
12 042-331 PART-EX B Allen, 5-10-3 (5 ex) .... S Charlton
13 13-4103 SHALOTRA, T Craig, 5-10-2 .... C Grant
15 00-0313 PRESS GANG (CD), J S Wilson, 8-10-0 .... A Stringer 4
16 1343-22 WEDDED BLISS, D Chapman, 5-10-0 .... Mr T Walford
17 00-0321 LUNAR WIND, J Parkes, 6-10-0 (5 ex) .... M Brennan (7)

4 Tony, 6 Wedded Bliss, 11-2 Miss Couture, 6 Tom Noel, 7 My Timmy, 8 Home Ground, 10 Part-Ex, 12 Cap Too, 14 Press Gang, 20-1 others.

Newcastle results

[illegible]

Kempton Park selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.30 News King. 2.0 Celtic Ryde. 2.30 Royal Vulcan. 3.0 Fifty Dollars More. 3.30 King Hustler.

Chepstow selections

By Michael Seely

1.0 Emmabel, 1.30 Captain John, 2.0 Tower-Bird, 2.30 Indiana Dare, 3.0 Acrow Lad, 3.30 All Our Yesterdays.

Newcastle selections

By Michael Seely

12.45 Show Rose, 1.15 Starlight Lad, 1.45 RYEMAN is especially recommended, 2.15 Pretty Sandy, 2.45 Phoenix Prince, 3.15 Cap Too.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS

[illegible]

DEATHS

[illegible]

IN MEMORIAM

[illegible]

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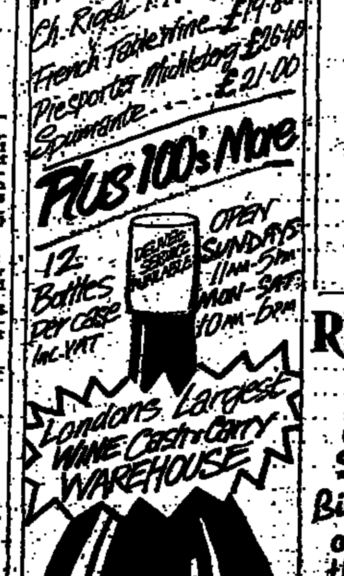
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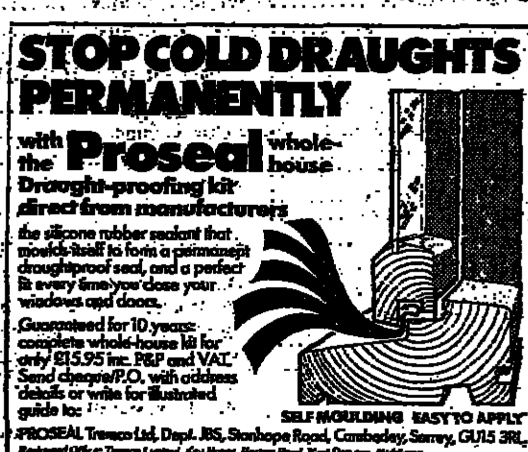
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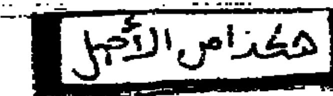
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Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

The World of Rugby: The Springbok and the ... with Cliff Morgan and Carwyn James (r); ... Swap Shop: The Guests include Chas and Dave and the naturalist David Bellamy. Also, the ... of Cheggers Roadshow are revealed; ... Grandstand. The line-up is: 12.20 Football ...; 12.50 Racing from Chepstow; 1.10 Ski-ing: ... Downhill and Men's Giant Slalom, from Val ...; 1.20 Chepstow racing; 1.40 Netball: ... v Barbados, from Wembley Arena. A look at last week's international; 1.50 Chepstow ...; 2.10 International Rugby Union: Wales v Australia, from Cardiff Arms Park. The commentators are Bill McLaren and Gareth Edwards. It was Wales's win over the Australians in the 1975-1976 season that began their run of international wins. And the Aussies go to ... today determined to produce a hat-trick. ... Half-time scores.

...55 Grandstand (continued). Snooker: Final frames of the Coral UK Professional Championship. Seven frames are played this afternoon. Highlights at 11.50 tonight; 4.35 Final Scores.
...10 King Fu: Caine invades the lair of some vicious killers to kidnap the only man who can clear him of a charge of attempted murder.
...00 News: with Kenneth Kendall; 6.10 Sport round-up.
...15 Larry Grayson's Generation Game: with Isla St Clair.
...10 Juliet Bravo: Sgt Parrish is put on the spot when his nephew is brought into the police station, on suspicion of being involved in the robbery of a sub-post office.
...00 The Two Ronnies: First in a new series of comedy and music shows with Messrs Barker and Corbett. Includes the return of the private eyes Charley Farley and Piggy Malone.

...45 Flamingo Road: End of the serial. There's a hurricane on the way, and Lane Ballou's secret past finally catches up with her. Starring Christina Raines as Lane.
...35 News. With Kenneth Kendall. And sports round-up.
...50 Match of the Day: Action highlights from two of today's Football League matches: one in the north the other in the south. Also, Bob Wilson's sports round-up and the result of the November Goal of the Month competition.
...50 Parkinson: His guests tonight include Ken Dodd and Twiggy.
11.50 Snooker: Highlights of the concluding frames in the Coral United Kingdom Professional Snooker Championship, from the Guild Hall, Preston. There's £10,000 for the winner, and David Vine interviews him.
12.50 Weather forecast.

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC Cymru/Wales 8.50-9.30 am Crackerjack... 12.50 am Weather. Scotland ... 5.10-5.15 Scoreboard (2). 9.50- ... Northern Ireland 5.0-5.10 pm ... Ireland News. 12.50 am News. ... (South-West only) Saturday Spotlight 12.55 ... Close.

BBC 2

10.10 Open University: Today's line-up of programmes consists of: Childhood 5-10; self-help projects (at 10.10); Consumer Decisions: serve you right (at 10.35); Updating the Professional: a lecture by Dr J Horlock (at 11.00); Open University programmes end at 11.50 am. At 2.55: Saturday Cinema: Tammy (1957). First in what became a series (of five) romantic comedies about an innocent girl from Mississippi who charms everyone she meets. She is played today by Debbie Reynolds. The role was later to be taken over by Sandra Dee and Debbie Watson. Co-starring in today's film: Fay Wray (of King Kong fame) and Leslie Nielsen.

4.20 Play Away: Jokes and music.
4.45 Film: Francis* (1950) Comedy about a talking mule who causes his friend (Donald O'Connor) to end up in an army mental hospital.
6.15 The Lonely War: Part one of a two-part series about the German occupation of the Channel Islands (r).
6.45 World Chess: The prospects for future champions; 7.10 News and sport.
7.25 Did You See...? includes an interview with Sir Ian Trethowan, the BBC's Director-General about the dearer TV licence.
8.00 The Shogun Inheritance: Final film. Three Shinto festivals in Japan.
8.40 News and weather forecast.

8.45 Der Freischütz: Carl Maria von Weber's opera, recorded at the Württemberg State Theatre, Stuttgart. Sung in German, with English sub-titles. The story of a young hunter who meddles with the forces of evil in his attempt to gain his heart's desire.
9.00 Der Freischütz: cont.
11.25 Playhouse Special: You're All Right–How am I? Hilarious William Douglas-Home comedy about a psychiatrist (Denholm Elliott) and his patient (Michael Hordern) and how they reverse roles (r).
12.05 Film: Night Creatures (1962) Hammer thriller about smuggling on the Romney marshes in the 18th century. Very reminiscent of the old George Arliss drama Dr Syn. Starring Peter Cushing (as the Syn-type vicar). Ends at 1.30 am.

ITV/LONDON

8.35 Sesame Street: with The Muppets; 9.35 Thunderbirds: an orbiting pirate TV station (r); 10.30 Tiswas: Boisterous nothing-barred entertainment for children; 12.15 World of Sport. The line-up is:- 12.20 On the Ball (Ian St John); 12.45 World Cup Ski-ing: The World Cup season begins with coverage from Val D'Isère of the Men's Downhill and the Men's Giant Slalom; 1.15 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITV Six. We see from Kempton, the 1.30, 2.00, and the 2.30. From Newcastle, we see the 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45; At 3.00, World Cup Ski-ing: The second run of the Men's Giant Slalom, from Val D'Isère; 3.10 Speedway: The Lada Indoor International, from Wembley Arena. Peter Collins leads the British team; 3.45 Half-time football results; 4.00 Darts. Winmau World Masters, from Wembley Conference Centre.

5.05 Worzel Gummidge: The Crowman gives Worzel a chance to get his own back on Aunt Sally.
5.35 News from ITN.
5.40 The Pyramid Game: Guest celebrities tonight are Liza Goddard and Nicholas Parsons. Contestants are Anne Hill from Mansfield, and Carol Wolford, from Maidstone.
6.10 Game for a Laugh: Comedy show in which ordinary people do odd things to the delight of a studio audience.
7.00 Punchlines: The celebrity guests are the snooker player Ray Reardon and Julia McKenzie. The contestants are Olwyn Mawston and Clive Thomas.
7.35 Film: Murder by Natural Causes (1979) Made-for-television thriller about a wife who thinks up what she believes will be the perfect crime. She plans to murder her husband. Starring Hal Holbrook, Katharine Ross and Richard Anderson.

9.20 News from ITN. And a round-up of the day's most important sporting events.
9.35 Knife Edge: Charlie Was a Rich Man. Thriller by John Tordoff, about the attempts to trace a small fortune salted away after an armed robbery. A man breaks out of prison to try and find it. His first call is on the widow of the man who hid the £100,000. But it's her young son who might hold the key to the mystery. Starring Steven Berkoff, Margaret Nolan and 13-year-old Damien Nash.
10.35 Johnny Carson's Tonight Show: This chat and music show was screened in the US a couple of days ago. There are two guests tonight, the Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti, and the screen actress Suzanne Pleshette.
11.15 Film: I Monster (1970) Yet another version of the Jekyll and Hyde story, set in Edwardian days. Christopher Lee plays the dual role (good and evil). Also starring Peter Cushing and Susan Jameson.
12.45 Close: A reading from Lieutenant-colonel Blashford-Snell.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast.
6.30 News.
6.32 Farming Today.
7.00 News.
7.10 Today's Papers.
7.45 Yours Faithfully.
7.50 It's a Bargain.
8.00 News.
8.10 Today's Papers.
8.15 Sport on 4.
8.50 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Breakaway.
9.50 News Stand.
10.05 The Week in Westminster.
10.30 Daily Service.†
10.45 Pick of the Week.†
11.35 From Our Own Correspondent.
12.00 News.
12.02 Money Box.
12.27 The News Quiz.†
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions?
2.00 News.
2.05 Wildlife.
2.30 Thirty-Minute Theatre: "Supersaver" by Peter Gibbs.
3.00 Medicine Now.
3.30 Profile: A personal portrait.
3.50 Inquire Within.†
4.00 Where Did It Go Wrong? How We Caught the British Disease. A historical fantasy in five parts by Roy Lewis, in which a fictional reporter, played by Anna Massey, asks eminent historical figures for their views on the present state of the country (Part 4).
4.30 Does He Take Sugar? A magazine of special interest to disabled listeners and their families.
5.00 Along The Silk Road (new series). A four-part journey into Central Asia on the trade route that has joined China and Europe for over 2,000 years. (1) Xian.
5.25 Week Ending.†
6.00 News.
6.15 Desert Island Discs. Castaway: actor Alan Howard.†
6.55 Stop The Week With Robert Robinson.
7.35 Baker's Dozen. Richard Baker with records.†
8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre: "The Autonomous Murder Complex" by Frederick Bradnum.†
10.00 News.
10.15 Elisabeth Soderstrom: The Swedish soprano presents her choice of music with the theme of the darker side of life.†
11.00 Lighten Our Darkness. Evening prayers.†
11.15 The Burkiss Way starring Jo Kendall, Nigel Rees, Chris Emmett, Fred Harris.
11.45 Places I've Lived, People I've Known. Harry Soan recalls six villages (5) in the Vale of Evesham.
12.00 News; Weather report; forecast.
12.15 Shipping Forecast; Inshore Waters Forecast.

Radio 3

7.55 Weather.
8.00 News.
8.05 Aubade Rossini, Wolf, Chopin, Suk; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Record Review.†
10.15 Stereo Release New records: Delius, Ibert, Francaix, Reger.†
11.15 Bandstand Jones and Crossland Band. Concert: Gilbert Vinter, Holst.†
11.45 I Know What I Like Bernard Rose, retired Fellow and Organist of Magdalen College, Oxford, presents a personal choice of records.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Early Music Forum The second of three programmes focussing on the 1981 Innsbruck Radio Prize for Interpretation of Early Music.†
2.00 Play It Again Selection of a past week's music broadcasts.†
5.00 Jazz Record Requests with Peter Clayton.†
5.45 Critics' Forum. A weekly discussion on cinema, theatre, books, broadcasting and the visual arts.
6.35 Renaissance Dance Music by Giorgio Mainero; record.†
6.55 For the Conveyance of Oysters by Peter Barnes, adapted from 'Reminiscences of Anton Chekov' by Maxim Gorky.
7.15 Alfred Brendel Piano recital: Bartok, Liszt.†
8.05 Brahms Chamber music recital.†
8.45 Lutoslawski Concert in which the composer conducts the Austrian Radio Symphony Orchestra in three of his own works.†
10.00 A World of Strangers. Tom Paulin considers the writings of Nadine Gordimer, with contributions from the novelist and readings.
11.00 News.
11.05 Monteverdi on record.†

Richard Briers: Thirty-Minute Theatre (Radio 4, 2.30 pm)



Anna Massey: Where Did It Go wrong? (Radio 4, 4.00 pm)

RADIO 2

5.00 Tony Brandon with The Saturday Early Show.† 7.30 David Jacobs.† 9.30 Pete Murray's Open House.† 11.03 The Kenny Everett Show.† 1.00 The News Huddlines with Roy Hudd. 1.30 Sport on 2. 6.00 Country Style. 7.00 Oh Mother! starring Mollie Sugden and Patricia Brake. 7.30 Big Band Special with the Radio Big Band.† 8.00 Saturday Night Is Gala Night: A Night at the Opera direct from the De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea.† 10.11 Nordring. The Belgian entry for last year's Nordring Radio Prize. 11.10 Pete Marshall's Late Show.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music, with Colin Berry.†

RADIO 1

5.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Playground. 8.00 Tony Blackburn with Junior Choice. 10.00 Peter Powell. 12.00 My Top 12: Andy Peebles invites a star guest to choose 12 all-time favourite music tracks. 1.00 Adrian Juste.† 2.00 A King in New York with Jonathan King.† 2.05 Paul Gambaccini including U.S. Top 30.† 4.00 Walters' Weekly with John Walters.† 5.00 Rock On with Tommy Vance.† 6.30 In Concert, featuring Nils Lofgren.† 7.30 Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News about Britain. 7.15 From the Weeklies. 7.30 The French Miniature. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 World News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 Peebles Choice 8.30 A Taste of Hunni, Irish Style. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead 9.45 Science in Action. 10.15 About Britain 10.30 Michael Strogoff. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 New Ideas. 11.25 The Week in Wales. 11.30 Meridian 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Anything Goes 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Network UK 1.30 Golden Treasury 1.45 A Touch of Genius. 2.15 I Wish I'd Met 2.30 A Taste of Hunni, Irish Style. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Saturday Special. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Saturday Special. 5.00 News Summary. 5.02 Saturday Special 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary 8.15 Good Books. 9.15 The Waltz 9.30 People and Politics. 10.00 World News. 10.09 From our own Correspondent. 10.30 New Ideas 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 World News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Letterbox 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 World News 12.09 News about Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Play of the Week 1.30 Baker's Half Dozen 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Good Books. 2.30 Sports Review 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain 3.15 From our own Correspondent 3.30 A Taste of Hunni, Irish Style. 4.00 Newsdesk 5.45 Letter from America.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO ★ BLACK AND WHITE: (r) REPEAT

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

CHANNEL
As London except: Starts 12.15pm World of Sport. 5.43-6.10 Pyramid Game. 10.35 Ladies Man. 11.05 Film: Where Have All the People gone? (Peter Graves). Science fiction thriller of father and children struggling to survive after a solar flare destroys most of the world's population. 12.30am Closedown.

GRANADA
As London except: 9.35 am Joe 90. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard with Chris Kelly. 10.35 pm The Star and the Story: William Holden. 11.05 Film: World of Suzie Wong (William Holden, Nancy Kwan) An American falls in love with Suzie. 1.20 am Closedown.

YORKSHIRE
As London except: Starts 9.00 Mumbly. 9.10 Little House on the Prairie. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard. 10.35 Hill Street Blues (Michael Conrad). Realistic look at inner-city police precinct in America. 11.35 Hammer House of Horror (Peter Cushing) The Silent Scream. 12.35 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN
As London except: Starts 9.10 am Joe 90 9.35 Stingray. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard. 11.15 pm Reflections. 11.20 Hammer House of Horror: Guardian of the Abyss. A chance purchase by an antiques dealer brings him into terrifying contact with the unknown. 12.20 am Closedown.

WESTWARD
As London except: Starts 9.25am Look and See. 9.30 Stingray. 9.55 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard. 12.12pm-12.15 News. 5.41 News. 5.43-6.10 Pyramid Game. 10.35 Ladies Man. 11.05 Film: Where Have All The People Gone? (Peter Graves) Science fiction thriller of father and children struggling to survive after solar flare destroys most of the world's population. 12.20am Faith For Life. 12.25 Closedown.

ATV
As London except: Starts 9.10 Clapperboard, presented by Chris Kelly. 9.40-10.30 Chips (Larry Wilcox). 10.35 Portrait of a Legend: The Beach Boys. 11.05 Vegas (Robert Urich). 12.05 Closedown.

TYNE TEES
As London except: starts 9.00am Cartoon. 9.10 Roman Holiday. 9.40-10.30 Thunderbirds. 12.13pm-12.15 News. 5.40 News. 5.42-6.10 Pyramid Game. 10.30 The Monte Carlo Show: Helen Reddy. 11.30 Vegas. 12.30am Three's Company. 12.35 Closedown.

SOUTHERN
As London except: Starts 9.00 Clapperboard. 9.30-10.30 Thunderbirds. 10.35 News. 10.40 Star Parade: 11.40 Sweeney. 12.35 am Weather followed by Prescriptions and closedown.

BORDER
As London except: Starts 9.10am Paint Along With Nancy: Lilacs. 9.35 Stingray. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard with Chris Kelly. 10.35pm Baretta: Look Back in Terror. An escaped convict grudge against Baretta. 11.35 Closedown.

ULSTER
As London except: Starts 10.00 am-10.30 Clapperboard. 5.00-5.05 pm Sports Results. 10.35 George and Mildred. 11.05 Police Surgeon. 11.35 Bedtime, Closedown.

SCOTTISH
As London except: Starts 9.05am Thunderbirds. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard. 10.40 pm Star Parade: James Last with Manhattan Transfer, Les Humphries Singers and Pasadena Roof Orchestra. 11.35 Late Call. 11.40 Streets of San Francisco. 12.35 am Closedown.

ANGLIA
As London except: Starts 9.00 Sesame Street. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard with Chris Kelly. 10.30 Tiswas. 11.15 Paris by Night. 11.45 Amazing Years of the Cinema: Clowns. 12.45 At the End of the Day.

HTV WEST
As London except: Starts 9.10 Talking Bikes. 9.35 Fanglace. 10.00-10.30 Clapperboard with Chris Kelly. 5.39-5.40 News. 10.30 The Palace Presents: Jack Jones with guests Roger Miller, George Gobel. 11.30 Lou Grant (Edward Asner). 12.35 Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES
As HTV West except: 5.05m-5.35 Ras Sgwar: Light-hearted quiz.

CHOICE

● The return of THE TWO RONNIES (BBC1, 8.00) in a new series of half-hour shows is news that should displease nobody. With an only too apparent dimming in the once-bright light cast by Messrs Morecambe and Wise, Messrs Barker and Corbett are now unquestionably the least predictable and most consistently entertaining comedy double-act on television. And whereas the contribution to the success of their scripting team must be immense, it is the two comedians' interpretative skill that raises their shared and individual routines to the level of high art.

● YOU'RE ALL RIGHT — HOW AM I? (BBC2, 11.25pm) features a very different sort of comedy double-act. But, as in the case of The Two Ronnies, it contains the same kind of interplay between two first-class actors that makes for comedy of a very high order. This is a second showing of William Douglas-Home's hilarious play, about the psychiatrist who becomes the patient and the patient who becomes the psychiatrist. The Michael Hordern-Denholm Elliott partnership is such a joy to watch that you wouldn't be blamed for thinking the two men must have been doing this sort of thing on the halls for the whole of their lives.

● THE SHOTGUN INHERITANCE ends its run tonight (BBC2, 8.00pm). It has flung a firm bridge between Japan past and Japan present and I have found it a stimulating experience to cross over it these past seven Saturday nights. Not the least of its praiseworthy elements has been the commentary of Julian Pettifer: many easily assimilatable facts and not too much spice in the flavouring. Visual colour aplenty tonight, in the Shinto festival sequences.

● Radio highlight: FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF OYSTERS (Radio 3, 6.55pm): Peter Barnes's re-working of some Gorky reminiscences about Chekhov. David Suchet, the reader, keeps a tight rein on the ironies, the most notable of which is that Chekhov, a life-long castigator of banalities, was unceremoniously bundled into a truck after his death at a railway station. Affixed to it was the label that has been affixed to Margaret Windham's revealing radio programme.

Matthew Kelly: Game for a Laugh (ITV, 6.10 pm)

BBC 1

9.00 Mr Benn; 9.15 Wake Up Sunday: With Dana, the Brown Brothers, and William Rushton; 9.35 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan: for Asian viewers; 10.05 Great Expectations: Multi-cultural education in two London schools(r); 10.30 Lost for Words For those with speech impediments (r) 10.55 See Hear! for the hard of hearing; 11.20 Ensemble: French course, lesson 9; 11.45 Discovering Patchwork: shapes, tones and colours(r); 12.15 Sunday Worship: from Ebenezer Methodist Church, Guernsey; 1.00 Farming; 1.25 Embroidery: braids and ribbons(r); 1.50 News; 1.55 Film: Mandy* (1952). Moving, thought-provoking drama about a little deaf girl (Mandy Miller), her troubled parents (Phyllis Calvert and Terence Morgan) and a kindly headmaster (Jack Hawkins); 3.25 Ice Skating.

4.20 Great Railway Journeys of the World: Michael Wood travels from Cape Town to the Victoria Falls(r).
5.20 Ticket To Ride: Chris Serle and Wynford Vaughan-Thomas in west Wales; 5.50 News: with Jan Leeming.
6.00 Great Expectations: Episode 10 (two more to go). Pip now knows who Estella's parents are. And he is attacked in a riverside boathouse.
6.30 Play It Safe! Child cyclists' accidents. With Jimmy Savile.
6.40 Songs of Praise: from Lisburn, Northern Ireland.
7.15 Hi-de-Hi! Holiday camp comedy. Peggy (Su Pollard) applies for a Yellow-coat's job.
7.45 Mastermind: Questions about Welsh railways, London burial grounds, Gilbert and Sullivan, and the "Flashman" novels.
8.15 Bergerac: The riddle of the two bodies (Luftwaffe pilot and skin-diver) found in the sea off the Jersey coast.

9.10 Dallas: A message from Jock has a dramatic effect on the Ewing family fortunes.
10.00 News: with Jan Leeming. Also weather forecast.
10.10 What's Wrong with Nuclear Bombs? This Everyman film examines the morality of nuclear arms.
10.45 Women in the Eighties: The three strategies which the women of Sweden are adopting to protect their jobs in a highly technological era.
11.10 Barbara Mandrell: Music from the singer and her sisters.
11.50 Weather forecast.

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC Cymru/Wales 1.0-1.25 pm Farming in Wales. 1.55-2.25 Rolf's Here! O K.? 2.25-3.10 Bonanza. 3.10-4.20 Sports Line-up 4.20-5.25 Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn. 5.25-5.50 Tomorrow's World. 6.40-7.15 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol. 10.10-11.0 A Hard and Narrow Road. 11.0-11.30 Troi'r Dail. 11.30-11.58 Women in the Eighties. 11.55 News. Scotland: 1.0-1.25pm Landward. 1.25-1.50 Agenda. 10.10-10.40 Spectrum. 10.40-11.15 The Devil's Gateway. 11.15-11.40 Women in the Eighties. 11.40 News. Northern Ireland: 11.50pm News.

BBC 2

10.10 Open University: Includes the First Years of Life; Energy in the Home; and Updating the Professional. Ends at 11.50am.

Pavarotti: BBC2; 8.50 pm

4.05 Horizon: The Cornucopia. Why so many of Europe's 8 million farmers are no longer needed (r).
5.00 Rugby Special: Wales versus Australia.
6.00 News Review.
6.30 The Money Programme: Nick Clarke reports from Hong Kong.
7.15 The World About Us: Gorilla. Some little-known facts about Man's closest living relatives who have an uncertain future at the hands of Man. An examination, too, of the successes of captive breeding of gorillas in American and Swiss zoos.
8.05 News: with Jan Leeming.
8.15 In My Fashion: The clothes that ordinary people wear — and why they chose to wear them.

8.50 King of the High 'Cs': A second (or is it third?) chance to see this profile of the Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti.
9.40 Grand Slam: Another in this series of bridge tournaments between Great Britain and the United States.
10.05 The Borgias: Episode 8. The Pope is no longer able to restrain his conquest-hungry son Cesare. And Cesare's enemies are now begining to close ranks in their plan to dispose of him (r).
11.00 Film: The Heartbreak Kid (1972) Romantic comedy (screenplay by Neil Simon) about a salesman's unhappy (and very brief) marriage and his subsequent infatuation with another woman.

ITV/LONDON

9.05 No Need to Shout: for the hard of hearing; 9.30 Fit for Living: how to stay young longer; 10.00 Morning Worship: Advent meditation; 11.00 Link: four young disabled women; 11.30 Clapperboard with the new Dudley Moore film Arthur; 12.00 Weekend World: investigation into youth unemployment; 1.00 Old Times: the hardships of elderly owner occupiers; 1.30 Skin: New hope for sufferers from sickle cell anaemia, which affects only Afro-Caribbean and Mediterranean people; 2.00 University Challenge: with Bamber Gascoigne; 2.30 The Big Match: highlights from three of yesterday's League games; 3.30 Dear Enemy: Jean Webster's story of an orphanage, serialized. Sallie has discovered that Dr Macrae is a married man.

4.00 The impact on the Anglican Church of the so-called charismatic revival (speaking in tongues, etc).
4.30 Film: Expresso Bongo (1959) Laurence Harvey sees coffee-bar singer Cliff Richard as his passport to fame as a showbusiness agent. Co-starring Sylvia Syms, Yolande Donlan, Wilfrid Lawson.
6.30 News from ITN.
6.40 Reports Action: The spotlight is on former convicts. We see them talking to a classroom of young people. And Bob Greaves, programme presenter, himself goes to jail.
7.15 A Day in July: How London, and the Londoners, prepared for and coped with the complexities that surrounded the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. The story is told without commentary. The pictures and sound tell their own story; 8.45 News from ITN.

9.00 The Professionals: A Hiding to Nothing. The security arrangements for some summit talks are wrecked when a ministerial secretary reveals the facts to her lover. It is a breach of secrecy which gives Doyle (Martin Shaw) the opportunity to indulge in some loving himself.
10.00 A Fine Romance: The relationship between the awkward lovers (Michael Williams and Judi Dench) has stopped short of physical contact. It is a fact that is beginning to worry both of them.
10.30 The South Bank Show: A Talent to Vex. Melvyn Bragg interviews playwright John Osborne. There are film extracts (see Choice).
11.30 The Medicine Men: A film about the manipulators who are doing much to eliminate back pain. We see osteopaths and chiropractors at work.
12.00 Police Surgeon: Drama about a split in a black organization.
12.30 Close: With Lieutenant-Colonel Blashford-Snell.

Radio 4

6.25 Shipping Forecast
6.30 Morning Has Broken
7.00 News
7.10 Sunday Papers
8.00 News
8.10 Sunday Papers
8.15 Sunday. Religious News
8.50 Week's Good Cause. The Rt. Rev. David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, appeals on behalf of 'Compass' which provides a counselling service for those with emotional problems in the Merseyside area
9.00 News.
9.10 Sunday Papers
9.15 Letter From America by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Morning Service from the Church of the Holy Trinity, Cookham-on-Thames
10.15 The Archers. Omnibus edition
11.15 Weekend
12.00 Smash of the Day. 'Take It From Here' starring Jimmy Edwards, Dick Bentley and June Whitfield
12.30 The Food Programme
1.00 The World This Weekend: News
2.00 News
2.02 Gardeners' Question Time visits the Maidstone and District Allotment and Gardens Association
2.30 Afternoon Theatre (†) 'The Levant Trilogy' by Olivia Manning (2) The Battle Lost and Won
4.00 News
4.02 The Week's Antiques with Bruce Parker. A magazine programme about antiques
4.30 The Living World
5.00 News
5.05 Down Your Way in Livingston, Scotland
6.00 News
6.15 A Walk In The Dark. A serial in five parts by Chris Boucher. With Patrick Mower and Helen Atkinson Wood (Part 3)
6.45 You The Jury (†) Current and controversial issues are put on trial before Chairman Peter Jay and an audience of jurors in Broadcasting House
7.30 Bookshelf. Magazine programme about books
8.00 Music To Remember (†) Concert given by the Boston Symphony Orchestra: Tchaikovsky, Sibelius
9.00 News
9.02 Tom Jones (new series) (†) by Henry Fielding. Adapted for radio in six parts (1) 'Gentleman, Foundling and Bastard'
10.00 News
10.15 Priestland's Progress (†) Gerald Priestland offers a plain man's guide to the Christian Faith. (12) Some Hope!
11.00 A Place Apart (†) (last in series) The Rev. Stanley Brinkman reflects on his experience of private prayer
11.15 Inside Parliament
12.00 News
12.15 Shipping Forecast; Inshore Waters Forecast.

Radio3

7.55 Weather.
8.00 News
8.05 Julian Bream. Britten, Handel arr Bream, Berkeley, Vivaldi; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Your Concert Choice. Record requests: Stravinsky, Dvorak; Mozart (mono), Strauss.†
10.30 Music Weekly.†
11.20 Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Concert. Part 1: Beethoven.†
12.00 Words (series). Talk by Michael Tanner, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (1).
12.05 Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Part 2: Bruckner.†
1.15 Mozart Piano Concerto: Concert.†
2.30 Werther. Opera in four acts by Massenet (sung in French on records):
4.55 Edmund Campion (series): Second of four readings abridged for radio from Evelyn Waugh's biography.
5.15 Zemlinsky and Schoenberg (last in series). String Quartet recital.†
6.20 Durufle: A performance of the Mass: Cum jubilo.†
6.45 The Reith Lectures 1981: "The Two-edged Sword". Six talks by Professor Laurence Martin, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, on armed forces in the modern world (4): "Conflicts of the Third World".
7.15 Schumann and Faure. Piano Music by Schumann; songs by Faure (mono).†
8.00 The Mist People. Play by David Pownall.†
9.00 BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra. Concert, Holst, Mozart, Britten.†
10.00 Conversations with Artists. Sculptor Henry Moore in conversation with Edward Lucie-Smith.
10.30 Beethoven: Octet in E flat; record.†
10.50 Apocryphal Stories by Karel Capek: "Pilate's Evening".
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Handel, on record.†

Radio 2

5.00 Tony Brandon † with Sunday Early Show. 7.30 Nick Page †. 9.00 David Jacobs † with Melodies For You. 11.00 Desmond Carrington † with Radio 2's All-Time Greats. 12.00 Paul Daniels † with his Magical Music Show. 1.30 Marks In His Diary † Unexpurgated comedy starring Alfred Marks. 2.00 Benny Green †. 3.00 Two's Best † with Len Jackson. 4.00 Sing Something Simple † with The Adams Singers. 4.30 String Sound † from the Radio Orchestra. 5.00 Comedy Classics: 'Steptoe and Son' starring Wilfrid Brambell and Harry H. Corbett in 'Pilgrim's Progress'. 5.30 Charlie Chester with your Sunday Soapbox. 6.30 Acker's 'Alf 'Our. Mr Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band. 7.00 Brain of Sport 1981. 7.30 Glamorous Nights. 8.30 Sunday Half-Hour. 9.00 Your 100 Best Tunes with Alan Keith. 10.00 Europe 81 † Australia. An international exchange programme. 11.05 Pete Murray's Late Show †. 2.00-5.00am You And The Night And The Music † with Nick Jackson.

Radio 1

8.00 Tony Blackburn with Junior Choice. 10.00 Noel Edmonds. 1.00 Jimmy Savile's 'Old Record' Club. 3.00 Studio B15 with Adrian Love 5.00 Top 40 † with Tony Blackburn 7.00 Alexes Korner †. 8.00 Sounds of Jazz †. 10.00 Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 News about Britain. 7.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 7.30 Classical Record Review. 7.45 Leave it to Psmith 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 People and Politics. 9.45 Sports Review. 10.15 The Waltz. 10.30 Sunday Service. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Letter from America. 11.30 Play of the Week. 12.30 Baker's Half-Dozen. 1.00 World News 1.09 Commentary. 1.15 Good Books. 1.30 Short Story. 1.45 The Sandi Jones Request Show. 2.30 Frank Muir Goes Into . . . 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Concert Hall. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent. 4.35 Financial Review. 4.45 Letter from America. 5.00 World News 5.09 Meridian. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Commentary. 8.15 Letterbox. 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours. 10.00 World News. 10.09 Science in Action. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sportscall. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Letter from America. 11.30 A Touch of Genius. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Religious Service. 1.00 Human Rights. 1.45 Short Story 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 The Waltz. 2.30 The Red and the Black. 3.00 World News 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 I Wish I'd Met 3.30 Anything Goes. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 Words that Changed Lives.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

YORKSHIRE
As London except: Starts 9.00 am Link. 9.25 Wild, Wild, World of Animals. 9.55-10.00 Dick Tracey. 11.00 No Need To Shout. 11.30-12.00 Farming Diary. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Calendar. 2.00 Mickey, Donald and Friends. 2.30-3.00 Big Game. 4.30 Cartoon. 4.40-6.30 Film: North to Alaska. (John Wayne, Stewart Granger) Two gold prospectors suffer woman trouble. 11.30 Five Minutes. 11.35 Nero Wolfe. 12.30 am Closedown.

ATV
As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 No Need To Shout. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Today. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Thunderbirds. 2.30-3.30 Star Soccer. 4.30-6.30 Film: On the Beat* (Norman Wisdom) Comedy as an accident prone policeman is mistaken for a jewel thief. 6.20-6.30 Cartoon. 11.30 Strumpet City. 12.30am Closedown.

TYNE TEES
As London except: Starts 9.00 am Link. 9.30-10.00 No Need to Shout. 11.00 Lookaround. 11.02 Clapperboard with Chris Kelly. 11.30 Flying Kiwi. 11.58-12.00 News. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook with Stuart Seaton. 2.00 New Kind of Family. 2.30-3.30 Shoot! 4.30 News. 4.32-6.30 Film: Broken Arrow (James Stewart) Western about a scout and his relations with the Indians. 11.30 City of Angels. 12.30 am Epilogue. 12.35 Closedown.

ANGLIA
As London except: Starts 9.30am-10.00 Paint along with Nancy 11.30-12.00 No Need to Shout 1.00pm Adventures of Black Beauty 1.30 Weather 1.35 Farming Diary 2.05 Laurel and Hardy* 2.30-3.30 Match of the Week 4.30 Incredible Hulk 5.30 How's Your Father? 6.00-6.30 Portrait of a Village: Ickwell Green, Bedfordshire 11.30 Going Out 12.00 Roots: Comedy 12.30am Facing the Future

GRANADA
As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 No Need to Shout. 11.00 Friends of Man. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30-12.00 Asian Notebook. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Thunderbirds. 2.35-3.30 Match Time. 4.30-6.30 Film: Tiger Bay (Haley Mills and John Mills). Suspense as a young girl protects a killer. 11.30 Strumpet City. 12.30 am Closedown.

HTV
As London except: Starts 9.00am-10.00 Sesame Street 11.30-12.00 No Need to Shout 1.00pm University Challenge 1.30 Farming Diary 2.00-2.30 Mork and Mindy 4.30-6.30 Film: She (Ursula Andress, Peter Cushing) Ursula is the queen who waits in the mountains for a virile young discoverer 11.30 Last of Summer 12.30am Closedown

HTV CYMRU/WALES
As HTV West except: 2.00pm-2.30 Worzel Gummidge 3.30-4.00 Cymorth 4.00-4.30 Dear Enemy

CHANNEL
As London except: Starts 1.57 pm Good News. 2.00-2.30 Out of Town. 4.30-6.30 Film: Diamond Head (Charlton Heston). Conflict when the sister of a plantation owner in Hawaii plans to marry a native.

WESTWARD
As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 Link. 11.00 No Need to Shout. 11.30-12.00 Paint Along With Nancy. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farm and Country News. 2.00-2.30 Out of Town. 4.30-6.30 Film: Diamond Head (Charlton Heston). Conflict when the sister of a plantation owner in Hawaii plans to marry a native.

BORDER
As London except: Starts 9.30 am-10.00 No Need to Shout. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Today. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Border Diary. 2.05-2.30 Wild, Wild, World of Animals. 4.30-6.30 Film: Our Man in Havana (Alec Guinness, Burl Ives). Graham Greene's story of a vacuum cleaner salesman who becomes a spy. 11.30 Closedown.

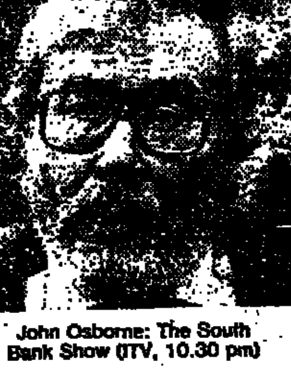
SOUTHERN
As London except: Starts 9.05 am Talking Bikes. 9.30-10.00 No Need to Shout. 11.33-12.00 Stingray. 1.00 pm Chips. 1.55 Farm Progress. 2.20-2.30 Cartoon. 4.30 Palmerstown. 5.30 Joe 90. 5.55 News. 6.00-6.30 How's Your Father? 11.30 Monte Carlo Show.

SCOTTISH
As London except: Starts 9.05 am Credo. 9.30 Questors. 10.00-11.00 Sesame Street. 11.30-12.00 No Need to Shout. 1.00 Sunday Service. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00 Cartoon. 2.15 Glen Michael Cavalcade. 3.00-3.30 University Challenge. 4.00 Scotsport. 5.00 Gives Us a Clue. 5.30 Happy Days. 6.00-6.30 House Group. 11.35 Late Call. 11.40 Roots: Comedy. 12.05 am Superstar Profile: Michael Caine. 12.35 Closedown.

ULSTER
As London except: Starts 11.00 am Link. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Today. 12.58 pm News. 1.00 University Challenge. 1.30 Out of Town. 2.00-2.30 Mickey, Donald and Friends. 4.30-6.30 Film: Quartet (Dirk Bogarde) film version of four Somerset Maugham short stories 6.45-7.15 In Our Eyes. 11.30 Sports Results. 11.35 Bedtime, Closedown. Ends

GRAMPIAN
As London except: Starts 9.15 am Seached Laithean. 9.30 No Need to Shout. 10.00 World We Live In. 10.30-11.00 Credo. 11.30-12.00 Gardening Today. 1.00 pm University Challenge. 1.30 Farming Outlook. 2.00-3.30 Film: Great St Trinian's Train Robbery. (Frankie Howerd, Dora Bryan). Yet more giggles from the girls of St T. 4.00 Scotsport. 5.00 Incredible Hulk. 6.00-6.30 House Group. 11.30 Reflections. 11.35 Murphy's America: Montana. 12.35 Closedown.

CHOICE

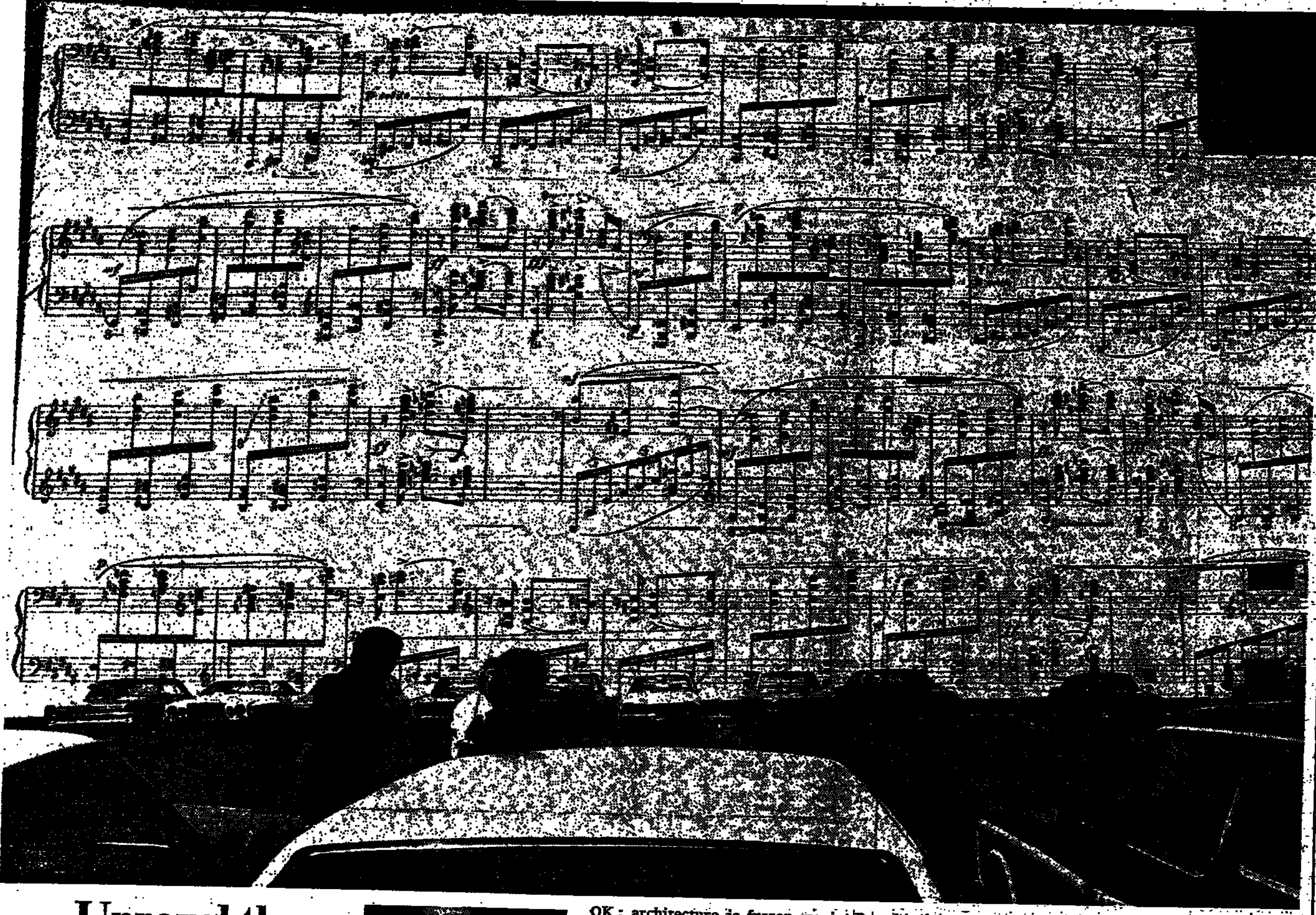


John Osborne: The South Bank Show (ITV, 10.30 pm)

● A TALENT TO VEX (ITV, 10.30 pm) is confirmation in the South Bank Show that John Osborne, despite his protestation about having learnt to play by the rules now, is still capable of hitting below the belt. Hence his elaboration to Melvyn Bragg of the anti-Mother passages in his autobiography. He refuses to explain exactly what he meant when he wrote about the fatality of hatred. But it is not too difficult to deduce from what we see tonight that the failure of his most recent plays is the result of something more basic than his tiring of his audience. He is doubtless sincere when he says that he loved his reviled play A Sense of Detachment because it showed he had not broken faith with bad taste. What he does not seem to have digested yet is that it is precisely because of his protracted pursuit of that ultimately arid love affair that audiences have broken faith with him. He went to that bitter well too often. But this fascinating edition of The South Bank Show shows Osborn at his considerable best (Look Back in Anger, The Entertainer) as well as at his considerable worst (A Sense of Detachment).

● TOM JONES (Radio 4, 9.02), Hallam Tennyson's six-part adaptation of Fielding, begins tonight in a welter of belches, and bucolic roarings, with much talk of bastards and repeated cries of "zounds!" In between, there is Ilona Sekacz's jolly musical score of harpsichord and wind, and Martin Jarvis standing in for Fielding. Exhausting and exhaustive, and even more fun than the Tony Richardson movie.

● Other radio highlights: the Paris Opéra-Comique production of Massenet's opera WERTHER (Radio 3, 2.30) with Georges Thill in the tragic title role and Ninon Vallin as Charlotte, and THE MIST PEOPLE (Radio 3, 8.00 pm), David Pownall's play about three tramps (including Freddie Jones) and the mad accumulation of illusions that bring about the killing of one of them.



Unravel these arpeggios while you park



OK: architecture is frozen music. But this is ridiculous (Philip Howard writes). This is a five-storey wall behind a car park in downtown Minneapolis. Gravity is on our side, so the music is printed the right way up, not upside down. Musicians will read the piano piece by Ravel (left), "Gaspard de la Nuit", but with disconcerting hiccups and hiatuses. What happened was that the building next door to the Schmitt Music Company was demolished leaving a dirty, big, ugly, brick wall. The present Mr Schmitt resolved to turn the blot on his landscape into an advertisement and a thing, if not of beauty, of striking eccentricity. His firm is one of the largest printers and publishers of sheet music in the world. So they went into their "sheet library" and plucked out a sheet of music with as many notes on it as a leopard with German measles. That did not satisfy their art director. So they rescored Ravel, laying on the arpeggios with a splatter. A Ravelation. Photographer: Stephen Cornwall.

Letter from Belfast

Quieter battlegrounds for the Peace People

Whatever happened to the Peace People? What happened to those heady days when the money poured in and thousands marched through Northern Ireland with their emotional and heartfelt message of hope?

The movement shuns personality politics totally. But it is still around, operating quietly and frugally across the community divide from a big house in the Lisburn Road, Belfast, which was bought outright from a mere fraction of the breathtaking sums of money the people of Norway gave to the Peace People.

In 1976 the Norwegians handed over £200,000. The movement spent and spent, setting up or aiding small business enterprises, which soon foundered with the impossible dream. The Peace People's budget is now about £25,000 a year, which comes mostly from jumble sales and foundations and trusts in the United States.

The movement went through traumas after Mrs Betty Williams and Miss Mairead Corrigan received the Nobel Peace Prize, and both held on to their £37,000 shares. Unconnected with that there were bitter personal clashes in the organization about direction: should the Peace People be a community movement or should it continue down the glittering path of publicity and politics?

The movement has finally settled down to a compromise, working with and for the communities but occasionally ruffling political feathers, as when it advocated the concept of emergency status for political prisoners.

One of its least known activities is called the resettlement scheme, known to those closely involved as the "escape route".

It involves spiriting people out of Northern Ireland when they face intimidation or threats to their lives and helping them to start a new life in Britain. Five or six people are resettled every month.

Paul was one example. He was resettled in England because he feared for his life, but returned because of home sickness. Within a fortnight he telephoned the Peace People from his bed at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, his jaw smashed and three ribs broken.

He had been spotted while collecting unemployment benefit and old scores were settled. The Peace People collected him from hospital and Paul was resettled again in London, which is rare; the movement usually insists on sending people down the escape route only once.

Mrs Ann McCann, the organization's administrator, said people had to be closely checked before being resettled. Discrete inquiries are made to ensure that they are not on the run, and clergymen from both communities play a prominent role in determining who should go down the escape route.

There is an extensive network of people in Britain who provide temporary accommodation, usually for at least a month. Entire families are rarely resettled. "We get the father out and it is up to him to send for the family", Mrs McCann added.

The Peace People's only minibus makes daily trips for visitors to the Maze prison near Belfast, and the Magilligan jail, in co Londonderry. The movement organizes mixed summer camps abroad, usually in Norway, and runs a junior football league in which 16 clubs participate, from both sides of the sectarian fence.

Mr Stephen McBride, editor of the movement's newspaper *Peace by Peace*, said: "The aim is to get these boys to talk to one another. We have hardly any sectarian problems even though most of the lads come from hard areas."

It is all the stuff of an active community organization. The Peace People movement is not front page news any more, but that is not important to the two full-time workers, the two part-timers, and the scores of volunteers. What matters is that it has matured and settled down roots where it matters, in the "ghettoes".

Christopher Thomas

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, 14/20th King's Hussars continues visit to regiment at Hohne, near Hanover.

Exhibitions

Paintings and watercolours by Turner, Tate Gallery, 10 to 6.

American toys, 1870-1955, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, 10 to 6.

The Great Japan Exhibition, Royal Academy, 10 to 6.

Craigie Aitchison paintings, Serpentine Gallery, 10 to 4.30.

Talks

Royal and parliamentary portraits, 1793-1832, by John Cooper, National Portrait Gallery, 1.

Omega furniture, by Geoffrey Opie, 12, Christmas scenes in medieval art, by Catherine Oakes, 3, both at Victoria and Albert Museum.

"The symbolic language of art", Laurence Bradbury, Tate Gallery, 3.

"Mother Nature—mathematical genius" by John Stevenson, Science Museum, 3; snakes and lizards of Europe, Natural History Museum, 3; London's landscape, Geology Museum, Kensington, 2.30.

Claude and Turner, by Colin Wiggins, National Gallery, 12.

Christianity in Roman Britain, 11.30; and "techniques of archaeological excavation", 2.30, both by David Williams, British Museum.

Music

Carols, 3 (for children) and 7.30, Albert Hall.

Louis Halsey Singers, Kingston-upon-Thames parish church, 8.

Suffolk Symphony Orchestra, Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, 7.30.

Christmas music, St Cuthbert's, Wells, 7.30.

Walks

Dickens's London, meet St Paul's station, 2.30; "Death in the West End", meet Embankment station, 2.0; Greenwich, meet Greenwich Pier, 12.30 and 3.

Tomorrow

Royal engagements

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend a concert in aid of Britten Foundation, Tetbury church, Glos, 5.50.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, attends International Equestrian Federation general assembly, Vienna, until December 11.

Exhibitions

Christmas exhibition, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, east London, 2.30 to 6.

Christmas card display; recent British prints, both Tate Gallery, 2-6.

William Burges's architecture, Victoria and Albert, 2.30 to 5.30.

Ethnic objects collected by David Attenborough, Leicestershire Museum, Leicester, 2 to 5.30.

Talks

"London Observed, the South Bank", by John Compton; "Miniatures", by Catherine Oakes, both Victoria and Albert, 3.30.

"Is there a women's culture?" Young Vic, Waterloo, 11 to 5.30.

"Portrait sculpture", by Laurence Bradbury, Tate, 3.

Music

Italian festival, Italian Cultural and Recreational Association, Caxton House, St John's Way, north London, 4.

Concert, Julia Sterry, Lauderdale House, Highgate, 8.

Handel's Messiah, Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, 7.

Recital, Maria Jagusz, mezzo-soprano, and Peter Batchelar, guitar, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 11.15.

Walks

Royal and parliamentary Westminster, meet Westminster Station, 11.

Hampstead, meet Hampstead station, 11.

Dickens's London, meet Embankment station, 11.

Cockney London, meet Westminster station, 11.

Mayfair, meet Green Park station, 2.

East End murders, meet Tower Hill station, 2.

Historic pubs walk, meet Blackfriars station, 7.30.

Regent's Canal to Islington, meet Camden Town station, 2.30.

Last chance to see

National exhibition of cage and aviary birds, Bingley Hall, Birmingham, 10 to 5.30.

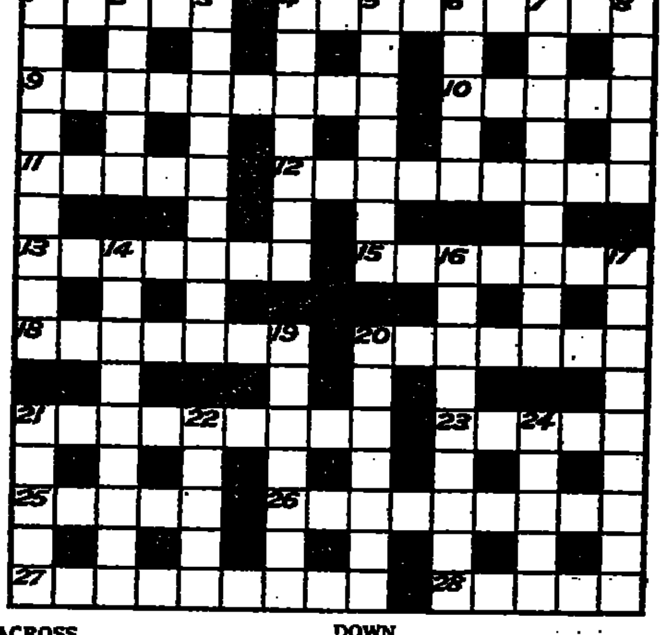
Photographs by Jack Welpott, Photographers' Gallery, Gt Newport St, Westminster, 12 to 6.

Johnson Matthey Silver Awards, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield, 2 to 5.

Auction viewing

Phillips, Blenheim Street: Furniture, carpets, until 12; Old Master paintings, until 12.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,698



ACROSS

1 In the long run, no honourable revolutionary (5).
4 Ambassador's short speech, giving top decoration (4-5).
9 Spooner's goblet? (6-3).
10 Flower blown in the wind? Not usually (5).
11 Poet soundly concludes agreement (5).
12 Ape's colour (apart from tail) — acceptable shade of brown (5-4).
13 Set many free? (7).
15 Stop passage of vessel in swell (4,3).
18 Casters could provide parts for one (7).
20 Modify a method of painting (7).
21 Rudyard's rhyme for youth (9).
23 Count, for example, some old money (5).
25 Concerned with a boxing match, more or less (5).
26 Many a business coup (5,4).
27 Inappropriate parts of guinea-pig, for example (9).
28 Carry out cooking of a sort (5).

DOWN

1 In this play, moral made is confused (9).
2 Long to eat crow? (5).
3 State would disappear with no lead or direction (9).
4 Such an old tree was put in White House (7).
5 Almost all paths made from this? Possibly (7).
6 Remove ducks, perhaps, or all the game shot? (5).
7 Dance in crew's 'ouse (9).
8 Author, we hear, is not yielding seat (5).
14 No Conservative majority — signs of insolvency are infamous (9).
16 Reflective type, unusual in a high position (9).
17 Time in Florence briefly allowed for flute (9).
19 Roofing material (style of thatch) (7).
20 Lock soldier up inside for hunting female (7).
21 Writer of musical criticism — plays, too, many an old instrument (5).
22 Dissipation — endlessly ends up in this court (5).
24 Yielded a Dutch town (5).

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World *(comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC99 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday. The winner of last Saturday's competition is Dr L Lenox-Smith, 5, Darby Drive, Welwyn, Herts.*

Name ....

Address ....

Solution of Puzzle No 15,692

Solution of Puzzle No 15,697

Shopping and eating in Channel ports

The following shops and restaurants are recommended for those making cross-Channel shopping expeditions to France:

Boulogne

Charcuterie—Derrien, 1 Grande Rue; pâtisserie — Lugand, 9 Grande Rue; cheeses—La Fromagerie de Philippe Olivier, 43 rue Thiers; groceries—Champion supermarket, blvd Daunou; fashions—Camel, 17 rue Nationale; giftware—Leclerq, corner of Grande Rue and rue Thiers; linens—Descamps, rue Thiers; woollens—Laines Berger du Nord, 52 rue Faidherbe, and Anny Blatt, 155 rue Faidherbe.

Restaurant: La Charlotte, 11 rue du Doyen. Tel: 010.33.21.30.13.08.

Light meals: Lugand, 9 Grande Rue.

Calais

Charcuterie—R. Bellynck, rue Royale; pâtisserie—Outtier, 53 rue Royale, or Ducard, blvd La Fayette; cheeses—Maison du Fromage Guislain, rue André Gerschel; chocolate—Leonidas, 67 rue Royale; grocers—Continent hypermarket, route de Dunkerque; giftware—R. Classe, 61 rue Royale and also in Continent complex; fashions—Silhouettes and Rodier, rue Royale.

Restaurants: Hôtel Sauvage, 46 rue Royale; Moulin à Poivre, 10 rue Neuve.

Dieppe

Charcuterie—Eurieul, 22 Grande Rue; pâtisserie—Divernet, 138 Grand Rue; chocolates—Ratel, 113 Grand Rue; cheeses and groceries—Olivier, 16-18 rue St Jacques; giftware—Clouet, 137-141 Grande Rue; fashions—Le Roy-Delepoulle, 129 Grande Rue.

Restaurant: Le Sully, 97 quai Henri IV.

Le Havre

Charcuterie and groceries—Lefèvre, 127 rue Victor Hugo; pâtisserie and chocolates—Houlé, 185 rue de Paris; cheeses—Cheinisse, central market stalls; linens—Olivier Desforges, 24 Pavis St Michael; leatherware—Deb, corner of rues Racine and Louis Brindeau; fashions—Bouf, 22 rue Robert de la Villeharve.

Restaurant: La Chaumette, 17 rue Racine.

RY

In the garden

Recently planted evergreen shrubs will appreciate protection from searing, drying east winds, which are often more damaging than frost. Two or three stout stakes pushed in round the plants with a sheet of thin plastic tied around them will provide good shelter, even without a top covering. Or you can trim unwanted evergreen branches and push them in around the shrubs as protection. Watch out for plants in draught tunnels caused by buildings.

Greenhouse or frame plants should be given plenty of air in the middle of the day, unless it is foggy, and they should be shut down in mid-afternoon.

RH

Anniversaries

Today: Christina Rossetti was born in London, 1830. Mozart died in Vienna, 1791, and Alexandre Dumas, *père*, at Puys, France, 1870.

£10,000 bond winners

Winning numbers for £10,000 prizes in the December Premium Savings Bond draw are: 6EB 160293, 4FL 625077, 4RL 923294, 4TT 905167 and 3WW 615806.

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The papers

The Daily Mail today welcomes Mr Foot's repudiation of Mr Peter Tatchell as Labour candidate for Bermondsey but it also chastises him for appearing to have second thoughts. Those "are the postures of a man who knows nothing about exerting authority". The Labour Party would never prosper while he was in charge, the paper said.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said yesterday of the Brezhnev visit that it resulted in a considerably chastened mood even among the "disarmament illusionists" in Bonn. "Herr Schmidt and Herr Genscher, his Foreign Minister, may well feel confirmed in their view that the pressure of arms modernization is the only leverage that can lead to success in Geneva", it says.

Roads

North: A19: Lane closures on Sunderland by-pass. A59: Temporary lights at Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Wales and West: A361: Closed at Lechlade. A35: Temporary signals on Monkton Road, Honiton. M4: Lane closures between junctions 24 and 25, east of Newport. A494: Roadworks at Llanferres until March.

Midlands: A50: Single-lane traffic controlled by lights at Upper Tean River Bridge, Staffordshire. A422: Roadworks one mile south of Stratford upon Avon.

Information supplied by the AA.

Sporting fixtures

Rugby Union: Wales v Australia, Cardiff, 2.30; John Player Cup and club programme (see page 23).

Football: Full league programme (see page 23).

Snooker: UK professional championship final, at the Preston Guild Hall.

Racing: Meetings at Kempton Park, 1, Chepstow, 1, and Newcastle, 12.45.

Squash rackets: British championships, Abbeydale, Sheffield.

Rugby League (tomorrow): GB v France, Boulevard, Hull, 3.

Darts: World masters, Wembley Conference Centre.

Posting for Christmas

Today is the recommended last posting day for Christmas cards to BFPO 10, 162, 605, 656. Monday is the last day for BFPO 8, 4, 9, 14, and to the following places: Albania, Austria, Azores, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canaries, Cape Verde, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, West and East Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Madeira, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia.

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.73	1.66
Austria Sch	31.95	29.85
Belgium Fr	84.75	80.75
Canada $	2.37	2.28
Denmark Kr	14.50	13.80
Finland Mkk	8.80	8.35
France Fr	11.38	10.78
Germany DM	4.51	4.27
Greece Dr	122.00	114.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.26	1.21
Italy Lira	2390.00	2230.00
Japan Yn	446.00	420.00
Netherlands Gld	4.91	4.67
Norway Kr	11.52	10.92
South Africa Rd	1.92	1.76
Spain Pta	193.25	184.25
Sweden Kr	11.04	10.50
Switzerland Fr	3.64	3.42
USA $	2.00	1.93

London: The *FT* Index rose 9.4 to 529.3.

New York: Dow Jones industrial average up 5.84 to 892.69.

Weather

Trough of low pressure will approach from the W.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, SW, Central, S England, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales: Mostly dry with sunny intervals but perhaps a few showers and occasional rain later; wind NW, backing W, moderate; max temp 8C (46F).

East Anglia, E and NE England: Mostly dry, apart from a few showers at first, but occasional rain later; wind N, moderate to fresh, backing W, moderate; max temp 6 or 7C (43 to 45F).

N Wales, NW and Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Mostly dry with sunny intervals at first but perhaps a few showers and rain later, with snow on hills; wind NW, backing moderate; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 46F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Mostly dry start but rain spreading from W in afternoon, with snow on hills; wind mostly NW, moderate, becoming variable for a time; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE and NW Scotland: Wintry showers at first but rain and snow spreading from W in afternoon, with moderate snowfall on hills, drier again later; wind mostly N, moderate, but variable for a time; max temp 4 to 6C (39 to 43F).

Shetland: Wintry showers; wind N, later NE, moderate, strong early; max temp 3C (37F).

N Ireland: Mostly dry at first but occasional rain in afternoon; wind NW, moderate, increasing to strong; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Rain clearing as colder weather, with wintry showers, spreads from N; some longer outbreaks of sleet or snow likely on Monday.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind NW, strong to gale, decreasing to fresh; sea very rough but moderating. Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW, backing W, moderate or fresh; sea moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, moderate or fresh, increasing to strong; sea moderate.

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.49 am. Sun sets: 3.53 pm. Moon rises: 1.23 pm. Moon sets: 12.50 am.

Full moon: December 11.

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.50 am. Sun sets: 3.53 pm. Moon sets: 12.50 am. Moon rises: 1.45 pm.

Full moon: December 11.

Lighting up time

TODAY
London 4.23 pm to 7.20 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.30 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 7.57 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.39 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.36 am

TOMORROW
London 4.23 pm to 7.22 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.31 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 7.58 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.40 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.37 am

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

TODAY

LONDON: Dynamics Explorer: 17.15-17.20; NNE; 30ESE; SSE; and 18.54-18.56; WNW; 10W; W. Seasat 17.7-17.9; NE; 10NNE; N; and 18.47-18.49; N*; 25N; NNW.

MANCHESTER: Dynamics Explorer: 17.15-17.19; NNE; 30E; SE; and 18.53-18.56; NW; 15WNW; WSW. Seasat 17.7-17.11; NE*; 15NNE; N; and 18.47-18.50; N*; 30N; NNW.

TOMORROW

LONDON: Cosmos 1518: (Dec 7) 5.29-5.33; SSW*; 55SE; ENE. Cosmos 1830: 5.11-5.18; SSE; 20ESE; ENE; 6.50-6.59; SW; 75S; NE and (Dec 7) 5.36-5.44; S; 40ESE; NE. Dynamics Explorer: 4.20-4.23; E; 15ENE; NE; and 5.55-6.2; S; 65WNW; SW; 80W; NE and (Dec 7) 5.35-5.44; S; N; and 17.39-17.45; N; 85SSE; S. Seasat: 18.15-18.17; NNE*; 20NNE; N.

MANCHESTER: Cosmos 1830: 6.50-6.59; 30SE; ENE. Dynamics Explorer: 4.21-4.23; E; 10ENE; ENE and 5.56-6.3; S; 70SSW; N; and 17.39-17.44; N; 55NE; S. Cosmos 1518 (Dec 7) 5.29-5.35; S*; 35SE; E; and 7.5-7.12; WSW; 70WNW; ENE. Seasat: 18.15-18.18; NNE*; 25NNE; NNW; and 19.56-19.57; NNW*; 20NNW; NNW.

Predictions supplied by Earth Satellite Unit, Aston University, Birmingham.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)

NOON TODAY



Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	2.3	.36	7	45	Showers
Bridlington	2.3	.29	7	45	Showers
Cromer	0.3	.13	11	52	Showers
Lowestoft	—	.14	9	48	Rain
Clacton	0.3	.02	10	50	Rain
Margate	—	.01	9	48	Rain
Folkestone	1.3	.05	10	50	Rain
Hastings	1.3	—	10	50	Cloudy
Eastbourne	1.8	—	11	52	Sun ints
Worthing	1.6	.01	10	50	Rain
Littlehampton	1.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Bognor	2.5	.02	10	50	Shwr pm
Bournemouth	2.1	—	11	52	Sun pds
Poole	2.1	—	11	52	Sun pds
Swanage	1.4	—	11	52	Sun ints
Weymouth	3.1	.02	11	52	Cloudy
Exmouth	1.5	—	11	52	Drizz am
Teignmouth	1.5	—	12	54	Cloudy
Torquay	1.2	—	12	54	Cloudy
Falmouth	1.2	—	11	52	Cloudy
Penzance	1.2	—	12	54	Cloudy
Jersey	0.1	—	12	54	Cloudy
Guernsey	1.3	—	12	54	Cloudy
Scilly Isles	0.7	—	12	54	Cloudy
Ilfracombe	0.6	.01	12	54	Showers
Tenby	1.5	—	10	50	Cloudy
Anglesey	1.4	.05	9	48	Showers
Colwyn Bay	1.1	.02	9	48	Cloudy
Southport	3.7	.03	9	48	Showers
Blackpool	3.8	.04	10	50	Showers
Morecambe	3.3	.11	8	46	Sun pds
Douglas	4.6	.04	8	46	Shwrs pm
Aldergrove	2.8	.08	7	45	Shwrs am
Eskdalemuir	3.1	.29	6	43	Shwr am
Prestwick	5.1	.19	8	46	Sunny
Abbotsinch	3.9	.11	8	46	Shwr am
Tiree	2.9	.39	8	46	Showers
Stornoway	—	.21	5	41	Hail pm
Lerwick	—	.02	1	34	Hail
Wick	0.4	.04	4	39	Hail
Kinloss	0.8	.35	5	41	Shwr pm
Dyce	1.7	.20	4	39	Hail pm
Leuchars	2.1	.16	7	45	Shwr am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	7	45	Guernsey	c	11	52
Birmingham	c	7	45	Inverness	c	5	41
Blackpool	s	9	48	Jersey	d	11	52
Bristol	f	11	52	London	r	7	45
Cardiff	f	10	50	Manchester	s	8	46
Edinburgh	c	7	45	Newcastle	f	9	48
Glasgow	c	8	46	Ronaldsway	s	9	48

High tides

Today

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.55	6.0	7.49	5.9
Aberdeen	7.35	3.5	7.54	3.6
Avonmouth	12.02	10.3	12.40	10.4
Belfast	4.52	2.9	5.06	3.2
Cardiff	—		12.24	9.7
Devonport	10.54	4.7	11.49	4.5
Dover	4.26	5.6	5.15	5.4
Falmouth	10.24	4.5	11.13	4.3
Glasgow	5.59	4.3	6.23	4.4
Harwich	5.09	3.6	5.56	3.6
Holyhead	4.13	4.5	4.37	4.8
Hull			12.15	5.9
Ilfracombe	11.50	7.2		
Leith	8.42	4.5	8.58	4.7
Liverpool	4.54	7.4	5.18	7.8
Lowestoft	2.20	2.2	4.04	2.1
Margate	5.20	4.1	6.11	4.1
Milford Haven			12.01	5.4
Newquay	11.00	5.5	11.41	5.3
Oban			12.28	3.2
Penzance	10.12	4.7	11.03	4.5
Portland			12.07	1.6
Portsmouth	5.08	4.0	5.29	3.8
Shoreham	4.38	5.1	5.14	5.0
Southampton	4.49	3.8	5.06	3.7
Swansea			12.10	7.6
Tees	9.56	4.3	10.00	4.6
Wltn-on-the-Nze	4.57	3.5	5.33	3.5

Tomorrow

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.02	5.8	9.08	6.0
Aberdeen	8.43	3.6	8.44	3.7
Avonmouth	1.19	10.0	2.00	10.5
Belfast	6.03	3.0	6.19	3.2
Cardiff	1.04	9.4	1.46	9.8
Devonport			12.10	4.8
Dover	5.43	5.7	6.28	5.6
Falmouth	11.40	4.6		
Glasgow	7.05	4.3	7.50	4.3
Harwich	6.14	3.5	7.12	3.6
Holyhead	5.26	4.6	5.44	5.0
Hull	12.31	6.0	1.35	6.0
Ilfracombe	12.27	7.1	1.06	7.4
Leith	9.48	4.6	10.03	4.8
Liverpool	6.04	7.5	6.30	8.0
Lowestoft	3.29	2.2	5.12	2.2
Margate	6.32	4.1	7.27	4.2
Milford Haven	12.41	5.2	1.21	5.6
Newquay			12.21	5.7
Oban	12.35	3.0	1.58	3.4
Penzance	11.30	4.8		
Portland	1.17	1.5	1.34	1.7
Portsmouth	6.12	4.0	6.35	3.9
Shoreham	5.52	5.2	6.27	5.1
Southampton	6.03	3.9	6.20	3.8
Swansea	12.45	7.4	1.26	7.8
Tees	11.08	4.5	11.11	4.7
Wltn-on-the-Nze	6.10	3.5	7.10	3.6

Tide measured in metres: 1m = 3.2808ft.

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	11	52	Copenhagen	c	5	41	Majorca	f	13	55	Rio de Ja'ro	c	22	72
Akrotiri	s	19	66	Corfu	r	13	55	Malaga	s	17	63	Rome	s	10	50
Alexandria	f	22	72	Dallas	s	13	55	Malta	c	13	55	Salzburg	r	-1	30
Algiers	c	14	57	Denver	s	6	43	Melbourne	s	29	84	Sao Paulo	c	24	75
Amsterdam	r	7	45	Dublin	s	8	46	Mexico City	s	17	63	S Francisco	c	9	48
Athens	f	16	61	Dubrovnik	s	8	46	Miami	s	24	75	Santiago	s	34	93
Bahrain	s	24	75	Faro	s	16	61	Milan	f	4	39	Seoul	r	2	36
Barbados				Florence	s	8	46	Montreal	c	4	39	Stockholm	s	2	36
Barcelona	s	11	52	Frankfurt	r	4	39	Moscow	c	1	34	Strasbourg	c	2	36
Belgrade	c	1	34	Funchal	s	20	68	Munich	sl	1	34	Sydney	s	24	75
Berlin	c	6	43	Geneva	s	3	37	Naples	s	9	48	Tangier	s	19	66
Bermuda				Gibraltar	s	17	63	New York	c	7	45	Tenerife	f	16	61
Biarritz	c	8	46	Helsinki	c	2	36	Nice	s	12	54	Tokyo	s	11	52
Boulogne	r	9	48	Hongkong	s	19	66	Oslo	c	2	36	Toronto	f	4	39
Bordeaux	c	7	45	Innsbruck	c	-2	28	Ottawa				Tunis	c	11	52
Brussels	r	8	46	Jeddah	s	28	82	Paris	c	10	50	Valencia	s	13	55
Budapest	c	1	34	Johannesburg	f	24	75	Prague	s	0	32	Vancouver	r	6	43
Buenos Aires	s	29	84	Las Palmas	s	23	73	Reykjavik	c	2	36	Venice	s	3	37
Cairo	s	20	68	Lisbon	s	11	52	Perth	c	21	70	Vienna	sl	0	32
Casablanca	s	18	64	Locarno	s	3	37	Peking	s	5	41	Warsaw	sn	0	32
Chicago				Los Angeles	f	15	59	Rhodes	r	17	63	Washington	r	11	52
Cologne	f	8	46	Madrid	s	6	43	Riyadh	s	27	81	Zurich	c	2	36